



# Employee Benefits Handbook

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# SECTION 1: MEMORANDUM PRIVACY NOTICE SEPTEMBER 2013



## Memorandum

**TO: All Employees**

**FROM: Human Resources,  
Employee Benefits**

**SUBJECT: PRIVACY NOTICE  
EFFECTIVE APRIL 14, 2003  
REVISED MARCH 19, 2004,  
2<sup>nd</sup> REVISION OCTOBER 1, 2008**

**DATE: October 1, 2008**

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Approved

Date

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**THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION. PLEASE REVIEW IT CAREFULLY.**

The City of San Jose is required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to maintain the privacy of your Protected Health Information (PHI) and to provide you with this notice of our privacy practices and legal duties. The City is required to abide by the terms of this notice. The City reserves the right to change the terms of this notice and to make any new provisions effective to all of the PHI that we maintain about you. If we revise this notice, we will provide you with a revised notice within sixty (60) days.

### **PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

PHI includes all individually identifiable health information transmitted or maintained by the City. PHI includes, but is not limited to,

- Your name
- Social Security number / member ID
- Demographic information (such as gender and date of birth)

### **PERMISSIBLE USES AND DISCLOSURES OF PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION**

We may use and disclose your PHI for different purposes. The examples below are provided to illustrate the types of uses and disclosures we may make without your authorization.

**Health Care Operations** – The City may use or disclose PHI to administer benefits and as necessary to provide coverage and services to you. Health Care Operations include such activities as:

- Customer service and resolution of complaints
- Activities relating to creating or renewing insurance contracts
- Enrollment information

**Health Care Payment** - The City may use or disclose PHI in order to pay for your covered health expenses such as making payments to other parties, including a health plan or provider.

Rev. 3/19/04, 2<sup>nd</sup> Rev. 10/1/08

**Treatment** – The City may use or disclose your PHI to determine eligibility for services.

**Disclosure to Others** – The City may also disclose PHI to others under a variety of circumstances when:

- Required by federal, state or local law
- Soliciting premium bids from other plans
- Required by court actions or law enforcement purposes, or
- Complying with laws related to worker's compensation

## **YOUR RIGHTS REGARDING YOUR P.H.I.**

You have a right to know how the City may use or disclose your PHI. This notice informs you of those uses and disclosures. You have the right to make certain requests, **in writing**, to the City's Privacy Officer (listed at the end of this document) regarding your PHI. You may:

- Review and obtain a copy of your PHI. A fee may be charged for producing and mailing your requested information, if applicable.
- Request to amend your PHI if you believe that information is incomplete or inaccurate. If your request is denied, we will notify you in writing. You have the right to file a statement of disagreement with us and we may prepare a rebuttal to your statement and will provide you with a copy of such rebuttal.
- Request that the City restrict certain uses and disclosures of your PHI. However, the City is not required to agree to your request.
- Request to receive an accounting of certain disclosures of your PHI.
- Request to receive communications in a certain way or at a certain location (e.g. a designated mail or e-mail address or phone number).
- Request a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you received this notice previously.

**Authorization to Use or Disclose Health Information** – All other uses or disclosures of your PHI will be made only with your written permission, and you may revoke that permission in writing at any time.

**Copy of Privacy Notice** – You have the right to get a copy of this notice by e-mail. A copy of this Privacy Notice is also posted on the City's Intranet site under Human Resources/Benefits & Deferred Compensation/Medical Information Privacy Notice.

**Complaints** – If you believe that your privacy rights have been violated, you may submit a written complaint (using the Health Information Privacy Complaint form posted on the City's Intranet site under Human Resources, Benefits) to the City's Privacy Officer: Jeanne Groen, Privacy Officer, City of San José, Human Resources, 200 E. Santa Clara St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Wing, San Jose, CA 95113.

You may also file a written complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 50 United Nations Plaza – Room 322, San Francisco, CA 94102. You may also call them at (415) 437-8310; (415) 437-8311 (TDD), or send a FAX at (415) 437-8329. You will not be retaliated against for filing a complaint.

**Contact us** – If you have questions about this notice or your PHI, contact Employee Benefits at [benefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:benefits@sanjoseca.gov) or (408) 535-1285.

## SECTION 2: INTRODUCTION

The City of San José is pleased to provide employees with an extensive benefits program. It includes insurance programs and other health, financial, and professional benefits. These benefit programs are listed below and described in this handbook. Complete details on each individual benefit plan can be found in each insurance provider's Evidence of Coverage (EOC), Summary Plan Description (SPD), brochure, policy certificate, or contract that applies to each benefit. The written policy, plan, or contract must be consulted to determine the terms and conditions of coverage for each benefit plan. If there is a difference between this handbook and the official Plan Document, the Plan Document (which may include underlying contracts) will govern.

The benefits described in this handbook are applicable to full-time and part-time benefited employees, unless otherwise noted. For more information, related to applicable benefits for non-management employees, please refer to your Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which is the contract with your bargaining unit (union). For management employees, please refer to the Benefits & Compensation summary applicable to your classification. MOA and Benefits & Compensation summaries can be found on the Office of Employee Relations website: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=186>. If there are any differences in the information contained in this handbook and the applicable MOA or Compensation summary, the MOA or Compensation summary supersedes. If you are unclear about whether a particular benefit applies to you, please contact Human Resources at (408) 535-1285, or by e-mail at [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov), or the Office of Employee Relations at (408) 535-8150.

## SECTION 3: ELIGIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

### Eligible Employee

Generally, full-time and part-time benefited employees are eligible for benefits described in this handbook unless otherwise noted in specific sections, the employee's MOA, Benefits & Compensation summaries, or plan documents. For a more detailed explanation of eligibility, refer to the above-mentioned plan documents available on the Office of Employee Relations website: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?nid=186> or the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>.

### Eligible Dependents

For most of the City's benefit plans, dependents are defined as your spouse, domestic partner, and unmarried children (including adopted children, guardianships, stepchildren, and children of your domestic partner).

#### *Medical Plans*

Spouse, domestic partner, and child dependents under the age of 26 are eligible for benefits as your dependents **regardless of marital or full-time student status**.

#### *Other Plans*

Spouse, domestic partner, and **unmarried** child dependents under the age of 19 are eligible for dental, vision, EAP and life insurance; however, children 19 through 23 years of age may qualify as dependents only if they are **full-time students**. Grandchildren are not considered eligible dependents unless the employee can furnish proof of legal guardianship or adoption.

**Totally-disabled child dependents** age 19 and older may be eligible for benefits provided that: (1) the disability occurred prior to reaching age 19, (2) the employee contacted his/her health care provider and follow their application procedure for a dependent's disabled status, and (3) proof of continuing disability and dependency has been submitted as required.

### Domestic Partner Dependent

The City of San José recognizes two levels of Domestic Partnerships:

- Unmarried same-sex or opposite-sex partnerships meeting the criteria of domestic partnership as defined by the State of California or as indicated on the City of San José Affidavit of Domestic Partnership. Benefit eligibility for this Domestic Partner relationship is explained in the paragraph on **"Domestic Partner Benefits"** below.
- Same-sex marriages certified by other jurisdictions for benefits purposes. Benefit eligibility for this relationship is explained in the paragraph on **"Same-Sex Marriage"** below.

**Domestic Partner Benefits** - Domestic Partners and children of a domestic partner may be added within 30 days of the beginning of a domestic partnership or state registration, during Open Enrollment or within the first 30 days of an employee's date of hire or benefits eligibility. To enroll a domestic partner and/or children of a domestic partner, the employee and his/her partner must complete and return an [Affidavit of Domestic Partnership](#) or provide a Certificate of Domestic Partnership issued by the State of California to Employee Benefits (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 535-1285) along with the appropriate benefit enrollment forms.

**Domestic Partner Imputed Income Tax** - A pro-rated portion of the monthly health premium which is attributable to domestic partners is considered taxable imputed income by the IRS. Please refer to the City's [Affidavit of Domestic Partnership](#) form for a more complete description of this tax matter.

The [Affidavit of Domestic Partnership](#) and other forms are available in Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 535-1285) or on the department's intranet site: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?NID=204>

**Same-Sex Marriage Benefits** – The City of San José recognizes same-sex marriages certified by other jurisdictions for benefits purposes. Employees in a same-sex marriage can enroll their new spouse, and children of their new spouse, under their benefit plans within the first 30 days of marriage. Employees are required to submit the appropriate benefit enrollment forms along with the appropriate proof of eligibility documentation as listed in the table under the Dependent Verification section below.

## Dependent Verification

### One-Time Dependent Eligibility Verification

If an employee gets married, has a child, adopts a child, or becomes a legal guardian of a child during his/her City employment, he/she should review current benefit enrollments immediately. To enroll a new dependent mid-year, an employee can log-in to eWay to submit a life event and proof of eligibility documentation or complete and return the City's Medical, Dental, & Vision Enrollment/Change Form to Employee Benefits within the first thirty (30) days of the date of the qualifying event together with the required proof of eligibility documentation. The following chart is an easy guide to which additional document must be submitted. Failure to submit appropriate documentation will result in the dependent's ineligibility for coverage.

Dependent	Documentation
<b>Spouse</b>	· Marriage Certificate
<b>Domestic Partners</b>	· City Affidavit of Domestic Partnership <b>or</b> · Declaration of Partnership filed with the California Secretary of State
<b>Natural Child(ren)</b>	· Birth Certificate
<b>Step Child(ren) or Child(ren) of Domestic Partner</b>	· Birth Certificate <b>and</b> · Marriage Certificate showing spouse as Parent <b>or</b> · Affidavit of Domestic Partnership showing DP as parent
<b>Children Legally Adopted/Wards</b>	· Court documentation (Must include presiding Judge Signature & Court Seal)
<b>Full Time Student Child(ren)</b>	· Copy of class registration for each semester
<b>Totally Disabled Children</b>	· Certification of Disability from Social Security <b>or</b> · Document of Disability from Physician if not SSA Certified

If the marriage certificate or children's birth certificates are not immediately available, an employee may request a 30-day extension by completing a [Request to Provide Dependent Coverage](#) form within that initial 30 days. An employee may then submit the required documents as soon as they become available. Failure to

provide the required documents within the 30-day extension period will result in disqualification of the employee's dependents and their removal from coverage.

The [Request to Provide Dependent Coverage](#) form is available in Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 535-1285) or on the department's intranet site: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?NID=204>

## Annual Student-Status Verification

Employees with dependents age 19-23 who are full time students (i.e. enrolled in 12 or more semester/quarter units in an accredited college or university, or enrolled in a technical, trade or occupational school on a full-time basis as defined by the school) must provide evidence of full time status for the fall or spring term to continue carrying these dependents under their benefit plans. Verifications must be provided by the last day of open enrollment each year to maintain coverage for dental, vision and EAP plans in the following calendar year. Dependent students without verification will remain covered until the end of the current calendar year and dropped effective January 1 of the following year.

Dental, Vision and EAP coverage for child dependents turning 19 will be carried through to the end of the month in which they turn 19. Child dependents turning 24 will also be carried through the end of the month in which they turn 24, after which coverage will be terminated (see the *COBRA Coverage* section of this handbook for benefit continuation rights).

Medical coverage for child dependents turning 26 will be carried through the end of the month in which they turn 26, after which coverage will be terminated (see the *COBRA Coverage* section of this handbook for benefit continuation rights).

## Beneficiary Designations

Many benefit programs, such as retirement plans, deferred compensation, life insurance and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, have survivorship or beneficiary clauses. Employees will be asked to designate beneficiaries by name and by Social Security number during their initial enrollment.

An employee should always review his/her dependent coverage and beneficiary designations soon after any major life change (marriage, divorce, birth or death in the family). Beneficiary changes can be made at any time. Information on how to update your beneficiary(ies) is available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/DocumentCenter/View/11141>.

## Enrollment Periods

It is important for employees to recognize their responsibilities for enrolling in benefits. The City makes the benefit programs available, but employees must enroll to receive coverage for themselves and eligible family members.

Benefits enrollment is managed online through eWay, the City's payroll and benefits portal. You can access eWay from work or home.

- Work: <https://sjhp92.hosted.cherryroad.com/psp/sjhp92/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>
- Home: <https://sjhpss.hosted.cherryroad.com/psp/sjhpss/ESS/HRMS>



## New Hire

As a new or newly eligible for benefits employee, you have 30 days from the date of hire to elect benefits which will be effective on the first of the month following your election date, following the City's Payroll Calendar. Failure to make elections will result in being defaulted. An employee may be required to wait for the City's annual open enrollment period to enroll, or may lose an opportunity for guaranteed coverage (some insurance policies require medical underwriting information for late applications). These limitations usually apply to new dependents as well. Our benefits plan year runs from January to December.

## Open Enrollment

As a benefits-eligible employee, you can enroll in or make changes to your benefit plans during the annual open enrollment period. At that time, you may change medical, dental, or vision plan providers, add eligible dependents and enroll in the City's pre-tax MRA and DCAP accounts for the following calendar year. Open enrollment is usually held beginning at the end of October through the second week of November, with changes effective January 1st of the following year.

## Qualifying Event

Other than during the annual open enrollment period, IRS regulations state that you may not change your pre-tax benefit options unless you experience a qualifying event. Qualifying events include but are not limited to:

- **Change in legal marital status:** marriage, divorce, legal separation, annulment, registration or dissolution of domestic partnership, and death of a spouse
- **Change in number of dependents:** birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a dependent child
- **Change in employment status:** the start or termination of employment by you, your spouse, or your dependent child
- **Permanent change in work schedule:** a significant increase or decrease in hours of employment by you, your spouse, or your dependent child, including a switch between part-time and full-time employment that affects eligibility for benefits
- **Change in a child's dependent status:** either newly satisfying the requirements for dependent child status or ceasing to satisfy them
- **Change in your health coverage or your spouse's coverage attributable to your spouse's employment**
- **Change in an individual's eligibility for Medicare or Medicaid**
- **A court order:** resulting from a divorce, legal separation, annulment, or change in legal custody (including a Qualified Medical Child Support Order) requiring coverage for your child or dependent foster child
- **An event that is a special enrollment event under HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act):** acquisition of a new dependent or spouse or loss of coverage under another health insurance policy or plan if the coverage is terminated because of:
  - Voluntary or involuntary termination of employment or reduction in hours of employment or death, divorce, or legal separation;
  - Termination of employer contributions toward the other coverage, OR if the other coverage was COBRA Continuation Coverage, exhaustion of the coverage.

You must make the changes **within thirty (30) days of the date the event** (marriage, birth, etc.) occurs. Any changes you make must be consistent with the qualifying event. Failure to submit notification in a timely manner may impact dependent eligibility for health care continuation under COBRA, and may result in you incurring liability for expenses for non-eligible dependents. Life event changes take effect the first of the following month after they are processed in eWay.

## Default Enrollment

### Health & Dental

If a full time newly benefited employee does not actively enroll in one of the City's Health or Dental plan options within the 30-day time limit, he/she will be enrolled by default in the Kaiser lowest-priced HMO health plan and DeltaCare HMO dental plan employee-only coverage. Dependents will not be enrolled. Deduction for the employee's portion for said coverage will be reflected in the paycheck. Employees may not change health or dental plan elections, nor enroll any eligible dependents until the next open enrollment period. Open Enrollment changes will become effective January 1 of the following year.

### EAP & Basic Life Insurance

Benefited employees will be automatically enrolled in the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and for Basic Life Insurance coverage when they become eligible for these benefits. Eligible employees must waive these benefits by logging into eWay, the City's benefits portal, to forego default enrollment. These benefits are 100% City-paid. Please note that dependents are not automatically enrolled in the EAP.

## SECTION 4: Premium Contributions

### Benefit Cost

Because insurance premium rates change often, they are not included in this guide. An employee can obtain information about rates (premium costs) and regular contributions at any time by visiting the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>. The City contributes to several benefits including Medical, Dental, Vision, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and Life Insurance. The contribution level for these benefits is subject to each bargaining unit's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Benefit and Compensation Summary. An employee should refer to his/her MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary for cost sharing arrangements. These are available at: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?NID=259>

Generally speaking, the percentage of the Medical and Dental plan premiums the City pays for an employee is based on his/her Standard Hours (the number of hours an employee is regularly scheduled to work each week). If an employee holds a benefited position, the City will pay the portion of health and dental insurance premiums shown below:

Standard Hours	Amount City Will Pay
<b>Full-Time Employees &amp; RWW Employees who work 35 - 39 Hrs</b>	Based on MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary
<b>Part-Time Employees who work 30 - 39 Hrs &amp; RWW Employees who work 30 - 34 Hrs</b>	City pays 75% of its FT contribution
<b>Part-Time &amp; RWW Employees who work 25 - 29 Hrs</b>	City pays 62.5% of its FT contribution
<b>Part-Time &amp; RWW Employees who work 20 - 24 Hrs</b>	City pays 50% of its FT contribution

The City's contributions for other benefits may vary. Please consult the applicable union's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Benefit and Compensation Summary for cost sharing information. Current premium rates are available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>.

The following voluntary benefits are 100% employee-paid:

- Flexible Spending Accounts
- Additional Life Insurance
- Long Term Disability Insurance
- Personal Accident and Critical Illness Insurance
- Deferred Compensation

### Pre-Tax Premiums

The City's medical, dental, vision, and flexible spending accounts plans are pre-tax benefits, which means premiums for these benefits are not subject to state or federal taxes. Premiums are paid before withholding taxes are calculated and deducted from the paycheck. Exempted from the pre-tax status are Health and Dental In-Lieu Plans. (Please refer to the [Affidavit of Domestic Partnership](#) form for information regarding exceptions to this rule.)

## Section 5: MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND VISION INSURANCE

The City of San José currently offers the following medical, dental and vision plans:

### Medical Plans

- Kaiser Permanente \$25 Co-pay Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)
- Kaiser Permanente 1500 Deductible HMO
- Kaiser Permanente \$3000 Deductible HMO with HSA
- Sutter Health Plus \$20 Co-pay HMO
- Sutter Health Plus 1500 Deductible HMO
- Blue Shield of California 100 Deductible Preferred Provider Organization (PPO)
- Health-In-Lieu (available if you have other group medical insurance)

### Dental Plans

- Delta Dental PPO Plan of California
- DeltaCare USA HMO
- Dental-in-Lieu Plan

### Vision Plans

- VSP Signature
- VSP Choice

A summary of each plan is presented in this handbook. Plan information and premium rates are available on the department's intranet site: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>.

## When Coverage Begins

Medical plan premiums are paid on the first and second pay day of each month. After enrollment, an employee and his/her eligible dependents may use their selected medical plan starting on the first day of the month that has earnings for both pay days in that month. The employee can confirm the coverage start date by accessing their Benefits Summary through eWay, a day after enrollment.

## Coordination of Benefits

If an employee or his/her dependents are entitled to medical benefits under more than one medical, dental and/or vision plan, the employee should consult his/her respective plans to inquire about Coordination of Benefits. Sometimes one plan will pay a percentage of the cost not covered by another plan. Benefits are usually calculated so that the total payments by all plans involved will not be greater than the total cost of the covered services received. Employees should inform their doctors/providers about all plans under which they and their family are covered.

Note that DeltaCare will coordinate benefits only if a non-emergency service is provided through a DeltaCare dentist that has already been selected as the primary care dentist. The DeltaCare Prepaid Dental Plan makes no payment toward dental work completed at any other location except in an emergency situation when DeltaCare may reimburse you up to \$100 for covered procedures.

## When Coverage Terminates

Medical, dental, and/or vision, and EAP coverage for the employee or his/her dependents will end on the last day of the month in which benefits eligibility or enrollment terminates. Continuation of coverage may be available. Refer to the section on COBRA Coverage for more information continuation of benefits for employees and their qualified dependents.

The last day of FMLA/CFRA and/or PDL time off work is the end of the protected period OR the date the employee informs his/her Department that he/she (i.e., the employee) will not be returning to work, whichever occurs first. Once FMLA /CFRA and/or PDL have been exhausted, if the employee still cannot come back to work whether the employee is on ADA additional leave or not, coverage under the health plans will be terminated and employees on leave will be offered COBRA coverage due to the reduction of hours and the loss of coverage. An employee who does not return to employment with the City at the end of any protected time off work may have a right to select COBRA continuation coverage.

## Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA)

Federal law requires a group medical plan to provide coverage for the following services to an individual receiving plan benefits in connection with a mastectomy:

- Reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy has been performed
- Surgical reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance
- Prosthesis and treatment of physical complications for all stages of mastectomy, including lymph edemas (swelling associated with the removal of lymph nodes)

The group medical plan must determine the manner of coverage in consultation with the attending physician and patient. Coverage for breast reconstruction and related services is subject to deductibles and co-insurance amounts that are consistent with those that apply to other benefits under the plan. Call the insurance provider for more information.

## Insurance Claims Complaint/Appeal Procedures

The insurer is responsible for making the final determination for benefits described in this handbook. To appeal the denial of any insurance claim, write to the insurance company within sixty (60) days of the denial.

AFTER contacting the insurance company to file an appeal and utilize the plan's grievance process, employees may file a complaint against their medical plan with the California Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC). The DMHC requires that the plan provider/insurance company advise their members of the following:

*The California Department of Managed Health Care is responsible for regulating health care service plans. The department has a toll-free telephone number (1-888-HMO-2219) and a TDD line (1-877-688-9891 for the hearing and speech impaired) to receive complaints regarding insurance claims. The department's Internet website (<http://www.hmohelp.ca.gov>) has complaint forms and instructions online. If you have a grievance against your medical plan, you should first telephone your plan and use the plan's grievance process before contacting the department. If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your plan, or a grievance that has remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the department for assistance. You may also be eligible for an Independent Medical Review (IMR). If*

*you are eligible for IMR, the IMR process will provide an impartial review of medical decisions made by a medical plan related to the medical necessity of a proposed service or treatment, coverage decisions for treatments that are experimental or investigational in nature and payment disputes for emergency or urgent medical services. The plan's grievance process and the department's complaint review process are in addition to any other dispute resolution procedures that may be available to you, and your failure to use these processes does not preclude your use of any other remedy provided by law.*

## SECTION 6: MEDICAL PLAN OPTIONS

### Kaiser PERMANENTE \$25 Co-pay HMO (Group # 887)

Kaiser is a prepaid group practice health maintenance organization (HMO) that provides direct services only through Kaiser Foundation hospitals, medical offices, and physicians. Each Kaiser member is encouraged to choose a personal physician or Primary Care Provider (PCP) at a local Kaiser facility. Most services and Prescriptions are covered with a co-payment. For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Kaiser PERMANENTE 1500 Deductible HMO (Group # 887)

With this plan, members use the same Kaiser facilities and network as the standard Kaiser plan. All Preventative services are covered in full. The member pays for the entire cost of non-preventative services until he/she satisfies the annual deductible of \$1500 (employee only) or \$3000 (employee + 1 or more). From that point, member pays a copay for office visits and coinsurance for non-preventative services until the Calendar Year Maximum is reached. For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Kaiser PERMANENTE 3000 Deductible HMO with HSA (Group # 887)

With this plan, members use the same Kaiser facilities and network as the standard Kaiser plan. All Preventative services are covered in full. The member pays for the entire cost of non-preventative services until he/she satisfies the annual deductible of \$3000 (employee only) or \$6000 (employee + 1 or more). From that point, member pays a copay for office visits and coinsurance for non-preventative services until the Calendar Year Maximum is reached. For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

Effective January 1, 2018, employees will have the opportunity to enroll in the Kaiser Health Savings Account (HSA) Qualified High Deductible HMO (DHMO) plan.

#### What is a health savings account (HSA)?

An HSA is a financial account you can put money in to pay for health care services that are defined as qualified medical expenses as described in IRS Publication 502. You won't pay federal taxes on this money, and you can use it anytime to pay for care (consult with a qualified professional for tax, investment, or legal advice). Your account may earn interest, and you can take your money with you if you change jobs or retire. You may want to consult with a financial adviser for more information about HSA eligibility. There is a monthly account administration fee of \$3.25 per account, which may be automatically deducted from your HSA.

#### Who is eligible to set up an HSA?

To be eligible for HSA, you need to meet the following requirements:

- You must be enrolled in the Kaiser HSA-qualified deductible health plan.
- You can't be enrolled in Medicare.
- You can't be eligible to be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

- You can't have additional health coverage that is not an HSA-qualified deductible plan. (There are certain exceptions, including specific injury insurance or coverage for accidents, disability, dental care, vision care, or long term care).

### Additional Information on Kaiser Permanente Plans

Employees must live or work in the Kaiser Service Area to enroll. Please contact Kaiser's Customer Service Center to confirm that you are currently living in a Kaiser Service Area. Some benefits, such as durable medical equipment, are not available to members who are not living in the Kaiser Service Area. Refer to the Evidence of Coverage document for more information.

New enrollees will receive a member card after enrollment. To contact Kaiser's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Sutter Health Plus (SHP) \$20 Co-pay HMO (Group #777000)

Sutter Health Plus (SHP) is a prepaid group practice health maintenance organization (HMO) that provides direct services only through SHP hospitals, medical offices, and physicians. SHP members must designate a personal physician from a list of available doctors otherwise, one will be automatically assigned to them. Most services and Prescriptions are covered with a co-payment. For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

New enrollees will receive a member card after enrollment. To contact SHP's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Sutter Health Plus (SHP) 1500 Deductible HMO (Group #777000)

With this plan, members use the same SHP facilities and network as the standard SHP HMO plan. SHP members must designate a personal physician from a list of available doctors otherwise, one will be automatically assigned to them. All your Preventative services are covered in full. You pay for the entire cost of non-preventative services until you satisfy your annual deductible of \$1500 (employee only) or \$3000 (employee + 1 or more). From that point, you pay a copay for office visits and coinsurance for non-preventative services until you reach your Calendar Year Maximum. For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Additional Information on SHP Plans

Please note: Employees must live or work in the Sutter Health Plus Service Area to enroll. Please contact SHP's Customer Service Center to confirm that you are currently living in a SHP Service Area. Some benefits, such as durable medical equipment, are not available to members who are not living in the SHP Service Area. Refer to the Evidence of Coverage document for more information. New enrollees will receive a member card after enrollment. To contact SHP's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>



## Blue Shield of California 100 Deductible PPO (group # 975993)

The PPO plan was designed for employees or covered dependents that live outside of the designed medical plan Service Areas; however, any benefited employee is eligible to enroll.

No primary care physician referrals are required. Services may be accessed directly through either Blue Shield's PPO network of participating physicians or facilities, or out-of-network altogether. Most services and Prescriptions are covered with a co-payment or coinsurance.

Please note that some services are not covered when accessed through non-Blue Shield participating physicians or facilities. Please consult the Evidence of Coverage or contact Blue Shield to confirm coverage for out-of-network services.

New enrollees will receive a member card after enrollment. To contact Blue Shield's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

## Health-in-Lieu Plan

The City of San José Health In-Lieu plan provides eligible employees a cash incentive to forego coverage under one of the City's available medical plans when employees can furnish proof of alternate group medical coverage.

For more detailed information contact the HR Benefits Division or visit the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

## In-Lieu Payments

Participants in the Health In-Lieu plan receive a cash payment in-lieu of coverage. Payments appear on each paycheck, 26 times per year; federal and state taxes are withheld on each payment. Health In-Lieu payment amounts are available on the Health Plan Semi-Monthly Rates sheet available in Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 535-1285) and on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

## Voluntary Cancellation

Employees who participate in the Health In-Lieu plan **may cancel** their participation and enroll in one of the available medical insurance plans **during open enrollment only unless they experience a qualified event (see details under "Enrollment Period")**. Cancellation will become effective with the first pay period of the following calendar year.

## Mandatory Cancellation

If an employee enrolls in the Health In-Lieu plan and alternate coverage is lost prior to the next open enrollment period, the employee **must notify** Employee Benefits **immediately and not later than 30 days** from the date coverage was lost. Upon receipt of documentation that coverage has been lost (from the providing employer or group insurer) an employee may enroll in any one of the City medical insurance plans.

## Annual Alternate Group Medical Coverage Verification

Employees enrolled in Health-in-Lieu must provide sufficient evidence of alternate group medical coverage for the following plan year by the last day of open enrollment each year to maintain enrollment and receive the payment amount for health-in-lieu. Evidence of alternate coverage is required for dependents as well if any.

Health-in Lieu coverage will be waived for employees who do not provide sufficient proof of alternate medical coverage effective the following plan year. Dependent(s) without proof of alternate coverage will be also dropped and your health-in-lieu coverage level adjusted as applicable (ex. From: ee+spouse+children, to: ee+spouse).

### Excess In-Lieu Payments Received

If an employee cancels his/her Health In-Lieu plan and enrolls in an available medical insurance plan due to loss of alternate medical coverage, the City's policy is to make coverage in the medical plan effective the date the employee's alternate coverage is lost. Employee is responsible for repayment of any excess health-in-lieu payments/he or she may have received. Employee is also responsible for paying the employee portion of premiums necessary to begin City medical plan coverage following cessation of his/her other medical coverage.

## SECTION 7: DENTAL PLAN OPTIONS

### Delta Dental PPO (GROUP # 2584)

Delta Dental PPO of California is an indemnity dental plan. A covered member may go to any dentist and may change dentists at any time. Employees receive a better benefit by going to a dentist within Delta's PPO network of dentists.

For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

Delta Dental does not send new enrollees a member card upon their initial enrollment; however, access to coverage is always available by providing the employee's name, social security number and the City's Delta Dental group number (2584) to the dentist upon request.

To contact Delta Dental's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the Employee Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### DeltaCare® USA Dental HMO (GROUP #5643)

DeltaCare is a pre-paid dental health maintenance organization (DHMO) that provides direct services through its exclusive dentist network. An employee must select a primary care dentist from the list of DeltaCare providers when he/she enrolls in DeltaCare. A list of DeltaCare providers is available on Delta Dental's website at: <http://www.deltadentalins.com>.

For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

New enrollees will receive a member card after enrollment. To contact DeltaCare's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Dental-in-Lieu Plan

The City of San José's Dental In-Lieu Plan provides eligible employees a cash incentive to forego coverage under one of the City's available dental plans when employees can furnish proof of alternate group coverage.

For more detailed information contact the HR Benefits Division or visit the Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### In-Lieu Payments

Participants in the Dental In-Lieu plan receive a cash payment in-lieu of coverage. Payments appear on each paycheck, 26 times per year; federal and state taxes are withheld on each payment. Dental In-Lieu payment amounts are available on the *Dental Plan Semi-Monthly Rates* sheet available in Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 535-1285) and on the Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

## Voluntary Cancellation

Employees who participate in the Dental-In-Lieu plan **may cancel** their participation and enroll in one of the available medical insurance plans **during open enrollment only unless they experience a qualified event (see details under “Enrollment Period”)**. Cancellation will become effective with the first pay period of the following calendar year.

## Mandatory Cancellation

If an employee enrolls in the Dental In-Lieu plan and alternate coverage is lost prior to the next open enrollment period, the employee **must notify** Employee Benefits **immediately and not later than 30 days** from the date coverage was lost. Upon receipt of documentation that coverage has been lost (from the providing employer or group insurer) an employee may enroll in any one of the City medical insurance plans.

## Annual Alternate Group Dental Coverage Verification

Employees enrolled in Dental-in-Lieu must provide sufficient evidence of alternate group medical coverage for the following plan year by the last day of open enrollment each year to maintain enrollment and receive the payment amount for dental-in-lieu. Evidence of alternate coverage is required for dependents as well if any.

Dental-in Lieu coverage will be waived for employees who do not provide sufficient proof of alternate medical coverage effective the following plan year. Dependent(s) without proof of alternate coverage will be also dropped and your dental-in-lieu coverage level adjusted as applicable (ex. From: ee+spouse+children, to: ee+spouse).

## Excess In-Lieu Payments Received

If an employee cancels his/her Dental In-Lieu plan and enrolls in an available dental insurance plan due to loss of alternate dental coverage, the City’s policy is to make coverage in the dental plan effective the date the employee’s alternate coverage is lost. Employee is responsible for repayment of any excess dental-in-lieu payments/he or she may have received. Employee is also responsible for paying the employee portion of premiums necessary to begin City dental plan coverage following cessation of his/her other dental coverage.

## SECTION 8: VISION PLAN OPTIONS

City of San José provides you with (2) affordable eye care plans through VSP. Below is a Plan Comparison Chart.

	Signature Plan (Group #12112926)	Choice Plan (Group #12112926)
Annual Vision Exam:	\$10 Co-pay	\$10 Co-pay
Eyeglass Lenses: <b>(Single vision &amp; lined bi/trifocal lenses. More options are available with additional cost)</b>	Paid in full every year	Paid in full every year
Eyeglass Frames:	Up to \$115 retail allowance every other calendar year (\$70 allowance for frames at Affiliate Providers, including Costco)	Up to \$115 retail allowance every calendar year (\$70 allowance for frames at Affiliate Providers, including Costco)
Contact Lens Exam: <b>not to exceed \$60</b>	15% off contact lens exam (fitting and evaluation),	15% off contact lens exam (fitting and evaluation),
Contact Lenses:	\$105 allowance when selected instead of frames and lenses	\$105 allowance when selected instead of frames and lenses

For more detailed information and rates, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Accessing In-Network Services

Contact a participating VSP vision provider office. Give them the covered employee's name, date of birth, Social Security Number, and notify them that you have coverage under the City of San Jose's **VSP SIGNATURE/CHOICE** plan. The provider's office staff will verify eligibility with VSP and schedule an appointment.

### Accessing Out-of-Network Services

Coverage is reduced for services accessed outside of the Vision Service Plan network of providers. Employees should contact VSP prior to accessing out-of-network services whenever possible to verify limitations or exclusions in coverage. Covered members are responsible for paying the provider in full at the time services are accessed. At that time, request an itemized receipt of products and services received. Then send this information along with a letter requesting reimbursement to:

Vision Service Plan  
PO Box 997100  
Sacramento, CA 95899-7100

Be sure to include the employee's Social Security Number, name, the City's group number, the patient's name, relationship to employee, date of birth, phone number, and address.

### VSP Insurance Claims Complaint/Appeal Procedures

If a subscriber or enrollee (hereafter "enrollee") has a complaint or grievance (hereafter "grievance") regarding VSP service or claim payment, the enrollee may communicate the grievance to VSP by using a form which is

available by calling VSP's Customer Service Department's toll free number (1-800-877-7195) Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. (PST). Grievances may be filed in writing with VSP at 333 Quality Drive, Rancho Cordova, California 95670.

Upon receipt of a verbal or written grievance, VSP will respond in writing to the enrollee acknowledging receipt and/or disposition of the grievance within five (5) business days. VSP is generally responsible for resolving grievances within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt. VSP will keep all grievances and the responses thereto on file for seven years.

## Section 9: EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

The City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) administered by MHN has been established to offer free, confidential counseling to benefited employees and their dependents. This benefit is 100% City-paid. All full-time and part-time benefited employees may enroll themselves and their eligible dependents.

Services cover a wide range of personal issues including:

- Managing stress
- Handling relationship issues
- Balancing work and life
- Quitting tobacco, alcohol, or drug use
- Caring for children or aging parents
- Exploring career development options
- Dealing with conflict or violence
- Working through grief and loss issues
- Controlling depression and anxiety
- Legal consultation
- Financial services consultation

For more detailed information, refer to the Summary of Benefits and plan documents on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### When Coverage Begins

Employees and their eligible dependents, if enrolled, may use the counseling or life management services on the first of the month following benefits eligibility.

### Counseling Benefits

The first five (5) visits\* per incident per year are free for employees and their enrolled dependents. Additional appointments are available at the employee's own expense. However, City employees may pay a reduced rate for additional counseling services.

If an incident is exceptionally serious, the counselor may refer the employee or his/her dependent to a psychologist or to another agency in a special field of expertise.

If the employee is referred to EAP by his/her supervisor for a work-related issue, he/she does not have to pay for additional appointments after the first 5 appointments. Visiting an EAP counselor at the recommendation of the employee's supervisor is usually voluntary, but in some cases it may be mandatory. Refer to the applicable Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Benefit and Compensation Summary for specific information.

*\* The limit of five (5) visits per incident does not apply to sworn police and fire employees, safety dispatchers, and their respective dependents.*

## Life Management Benefits

Telephone consultations are available to employees and their eligible dependents for life management issues. Examples of life management consultation areas include Pre-Retirement Planning, Financial Planning, Child and Elder Care Referral, Taxpayer Consultations, and Legal Guidance (for questions regarding wills & contracts or questions related to family, real estate, personal injury, criminal and consumer law).

Telephone consultation sessions are usually limited from 30 to 60 minutes for each call per separate matter and there are unlimited follow-up telephonic sessions.

## Accessing EAP Services

Contact MHN directly to schedule counseling or work and life services by calling (888) 800-0059 or visiting [members.mhn.com](http://members.mhn.com).

Company Code	
<b>Non-Sworn:</b> sanjosenonsworn	<b>Sworn (including Dispatchers):</b> sanjosesworn

## Confidentiality Assurance

Visits to a counselor are completely confidential unless the participant undergoing counseling authorizes the release of information by signing a release form. If you encounter service issues with a MHN provider or facility and you are concerned about maintaining your privacy within the City, please refer to the EAP Service Complaints/Appeals section below.

## EAP Service Complaint/Appeals Procedures

If you have a complaint or dispute about MHN's counselors or services, call the same toll-free number: 1-888-800-0059. You may also submit a complaint in writing to: MHN Appels and Grievances, PO Box 10697, San Rafael CA 94912

Complaints are investigated and resolved by MHN(?). Complaints are acknowledged within 5 working days and, with specific exceptions, are resolved within 30 days of MHN's receipt of the complaint.

If you need help with a grievance involving an emergency, a grievance that has not been satisfactorily resolved by your Plan, or a grievance that has remained unresolved for more than 30 days, you may call the Department of Managed Health Care (DMHC) at **1-888-466-2219**. The hearing and speech impaired may use the California Relay Service's toll-free telephone numbers: **1-800-735-2929** (TTY) or **1-888-877-5378** (TTY) to contact the DMHC. The DMHC's website ([www.dmhc.ca.gov](http://www.dmhc.ca.gov)) also has complaint forms and instructions online.

## When Coverage Terminates

EAP coverage will end on the last day of the month in which the employee's employment or benefits eligibility terminates. Dependents' coverage will end on the last day of the month in which either the employee or the employee's dependents are no longer eligible. Continuation of coverage may be available. Refer to the Employee Benefits Handbook, Section 12 COBRA Coverage for more information about Medical, Dental, Vision, EAP, or MRA benefits continuation for employees and their qualified dependents.



## SECTION 10: FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

The City of San José offers employees two flexible spending account (FSA) options, the Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA) and the Dependent Care Assistance Plan (DCAP) in accordance with IRS Sections 125 and 129. These plans offer employees the ability to save on taxes for qualified out-of-pocket healthcare and dependent care expenses. The current Plan Administrator is P&A Administrative Services, Inc.

For more detailed information, refer to plan documents on the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

**New enrollees** will receive a debit card after enrollment. Only 1 debit card will be issued to pay for MRA and DCAP expenses. To contact P&A's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Eligibility

All full-time and part-time benefited employees are eligible to participate in the MRA and DCAP programs.

To participate in DCAP employees must also meet the following eligibility rules:

- The employee must be at work while his/her child or other dependent is receiving care. If married, the employee's spouse must also be employed, or be a full-time student, or be disabled.
- Eligible children must be 12 or under. Other dependents (such as children age 13 or over, parents, or a spouse) are eligible only if they are disabled or cannot care for themselves because of physical or mental disability.
- The child, or other dependent, receiving care must live in the employee's home, and must be claimed as a dependent on the employee's federal income tax return.
- The employee must pay a "qualified person" to care for his/her eligible dependent at the employee's home, at a licensed day care center, or at another location. Any overnight camps or any schools for first grade or above are not qualified. A "qualified person" does not include any of your children under 19, or any other person whom the employee claims as a dependent.
- The employee must show the name, address, and taxpayer identification number of any persons or dependent care centers that he/she pays to provide dependent care on your federal income tax return.

### Cost

There is a \$3.75 employee-paid monthly administrative fee for participating in one or both of the City's Flexible Spending Accounts.

### How the Plan Works

With the assistance of the Plan Administrator or a tax advisor, the employee will need to estimate his/her annual out-of-pocket health and/or dependent care expenses. That amount is divided by 24 pay periods in a year and deducted from each paycheck semi-monthly before taxes are applied to the gross earnings. This reduces the amount of money on which the employee has to pay taxes.

After the money is deducted, it is banked in a tax-free reimbursement account.

Employees can track account balance information and file claims online at <https://www.padmin.com/employee-participants/account-login/index.php3> . A paper claim form can also be downloaded from the HR Benefits website at <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238> . Employees may request reimbursement biweekly, monthly, or once a year; it is their choice. **Note that employees may only request reimbursement for expenses as they contribute to the DCAP account. Employees cannot receive reimbursement more than their year-to-date deposits in DCAP.**

The Plan Administrator will provide a monthly account statement. These statements should be read carefully to understand the amount remaining in the reimbursement account.

## Tax Advantage Illustration

	Without MRA/DCAP	With MRA/DCAP
<b>Annual Income</b>	\$ 51,000	\$51,000
<b>Annual MRA Election Amount</b>	<\$ 0>	<\$ 1,000>
<b>Taxable Income</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Taxes Taken Out at 25%</b>	<\$ 12,750>	<\$ 12,500>
<b>Take-home Pay (after taxes)</b>	<b>\$ 38,250</b>	<b>\$ 37,500</b>
<b>Out-of-Pocket Expenses</b>	<\$ 1,000>	<\$ 1,000>
<b>Reimbursements (using pre-tax deductions)</b>	\$ 0	\$ 1,000
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 37, 250</b>	<b>\$ 37, 500</b>
<b>Annual Tax Savings*</b>	<b>\$ 250</b>	

\* This example is for illustration purposes only. In no way should this example be used to calculate your actual tax savings. Please consult a qualified tax advisor for more information about how these pre-tax programs will benefit you, specifically.

## Plan Options

### Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA)

Normally, out-of-pocket healthcare expenses are paid with money that has already been taxed. However, using the MRA program, out-of-pocket expenses can be reimbursed from a trust account funded with pre-tax deductions from the employee's paycheck. This reduces taxable income so City employees will pay less in taxes and have more money to spend and save.

#### *Reimbursable Expenses*

The following are examples of expenses that qualify as 'reimbursable' under the MRA plan:

1. Insurance co-payments
2. Unreimbursed medical/dental expenses
3. Acupuncture, Chiropractic, Homeopathic Therapy, etc.
4. Contact lens solution
5. Laser eye surgery

Please consult the MRA plan administrator for a complete and current list of eligible expenses.

## Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP)

Normally, dependent care is paid for with money that has already been taxed. However, using the DCAP program, out-of-pocket expenses can be reimbursed from a trust account funded with pre-tax deductions from the employee's paycheck. This reduces taxable income so City employees will pay less in taxes and have more money to spend and save.

### *Qualified Dependent Care*

The following types of dependent care arrangements qualify for the DCAP plan:

- A dependent day care center where care is provided for more than six (6) individuals. The facility must comply with applicable state and local laws.
- An educational institution for pre-school children. For older children, only expenses for non-school care are eligible.
- An individual who provides care inside or outside your home. This person may not be the employee's child under 19, or anyone he/she claims as a dependent for Federal tax purposes.

## "Use It or Lose It" Rule

At the time of enrollment, be sure to designate an annual amount that will cover only expenses that you know you will have during the plan year. If you do not spend all the money that you designated for the plan year, the remaining account balance is lost. It cannot be returned to you according to the IRS' "use it or lose it" rule.

## Plan Year Grace Period

The IRS allows MRA participants to continue to incur expenses for 2 ½ months after the end of the plan year (March 15 of the year following the plan year).

## When Coverage Terminates

The MRA and DCAP accounts closes at the end of each calendar year. Eligibility to participate prospectively in this pre-tax program will end either on the last day of the calendar year or on the last day employed or the last day on which the employee was eligible for the benefit. If the employee participated in a plan year and at some point separated from City service or ceased to be eligible, he/she may request reimbursements from the account retroactively for the period in which he/she was an active participant.

## SECTION 11: COBRA COVERAGE

The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) gives workers and their families who lose their health benefits the right to choose to continue group health benefits provided by their group health plan for limited periods of time under certain circumstances such as voluntary or involuntary job loss, reduction in the hours worked, transition between jobs, death, divorce, and other life events. When a loss of coverage occurs, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) provides that the same medical, dental, vision, Medical Reimbursement Account (MRA), and Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits be made available for employees, former employees, and dependents.

For any questions about COBRA continuation or to take advantage of your COBRA opportunity, please contact Employee Benefits at (408) 535-1285 or [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov). Additional information is also available online at <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Qualifying Events for Employees

COBRA allows benefited employees (and any covered dependents) to continue medical, dental, vision, MRA, or EAP benefits at their own expense for thirty-six (36)\* months after one of the following qualifying events occurs:

- Termination of employment (other than for gross misconduct).
- Loss of benefited status whether by reduction in work hours or change in job classification, or leave of absence due to a reduction in hours and/or loss of coverage.

### Qualifying Events for Spouses/Domestic Partners

COBRA allows benefited spouses or domestic partners (and any covered dependents) to continue medical, dental, vision, MRA, or EAP benefits at their own expense for thirty-six (36)\* months after one of the following qualifying events occurs:

- Voluntary or involuntary termination of the covered employee's employment for any reason other than gross misconduct.
- Reduction in the hours worked by the covered employee.
- Covered employee's becoming entitled to Medicare.
- Divorce or legal separation of the covered employee.
- Death of the covered employee.

### Qualifying Events for Children

Employees' dependent children may continue their coverage for thirty-six (36)\* months after one of these qualifying events:

- Loss of dependent child status under the plan rules
- Voluntary or involuntary termination of the covered employee's employment for any reason other than gross misconduct
- Reduction in the hours worked by the covered employee
- Covered employee's becoming entitled to Medicare

- Divorce or legal separation of the covered employee
- Death of the covered employee

\*COBRA participants enrolled in the Blue Shield PPO plan are only eligible for (18) eighteen months of COBRA.

## Definition of Qualified Beneficiaries

A qualified beneficiary generally is an individual covered by a group health plan on the day before a qualifying event who is either an employee, the employee's spouse or domestic partner, or an employee's dependent child. In certain cases, a retired employee, the retired employee's spouse or domestic partner, and the retired employee's dependent children may be qualified beneficiaries. In addition, any child born to or placed for adoption with a covered employee during the period of COBRA coverage is considered a qualified beneficiary. Agents, independent contractors, and directors who participate in the group health plan may also be qualified beneficiaries.

## Eligibility Notifications

When the plan receives a notice of a qualifying event, the plan must give the qualified beneficiaries an election notice, which describes their rights to continuation coverage and how to make an election. The notice must be provided to the qualified beneficiaries within 14 days after the plan administrator receives the notice of a qualifying event. The election notice should contain all of the information you will need to understand continuation coverage and make an informed decision whether or not to elect continuation coverage. It should also give you the name of the plan's COBRA administrator and tell you how to get more information.

## Election Requirements

If coverage continuation under COBRA is desired, the employee or eligible dependent must notify the City within sixty (60) days after receiving the City's notification of the qualified beneficiaries' COBRA rights, or within sixty (60) days after losing coverage after a qualifying event, whichever is later.

The COBRA participant will then have forty-five (45) days to make the initial premium payment along with any subsequent premiums due for the months following the qualifying event. The cost to continue coverage under COBRA will be the total cost of the premium plus a minimal administrative fee which cannot legally exceed 2% above the premium cost for active employees.

Contact Employee Benefits in Human Resources at (408) 535-1285 or [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov) for more information regarding administration and premium remittance.

## When Coverage Terminates

Continued coverage under COBRA will terminate at the end of the month in which any of the following occur:

- The allowable number of months of continued coverage expires.
- Premiums are not paid as required.
- The COBRA participant becomes eligible for health benefits under another health plan, or becomes eligible for Medicare benefits.

***Once COBRA Coverage Terminates, It Cannot Be Reinstated.***

## Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The City of San José does not exclude anyone with pre-existing medical conditions from medical, dental, vision, or EAP coverage. However, if an employee leaves City employment for another job, the new employer may have such exclusions. A pre-existing medical condition exclusion generally may not be imposed for more than 12 months, and this limitation period is reduced if you had prior health medical coverage. You are entitled to a *Certificate of Creditable Coverage* that provides evidence of prior health coverage. Your City health insurer will provide this *Certificate of Creditable Coverage* when your City health coverage ends. Contact Employee Benefits if your new employer or individual health insurer asks for a *Certificate of Creditable Coverage* and you did not receive one from your former City health insurer.

## SECTION 12: LIFE INSURANCE

All active full-time benefited employees are eligible to participate in the City's group term life insurance policy with Standard Insurance Company (part-time benefited and temporary employees are not eligible for life insurance). The City offers three kinds of life insurance benefits administered by Standard Life Insurance: Basic Life Insurance, Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D) and Additional Life Insurance. Basic Life and AD&D are benefits paid for by the City in an amount specified in the employee's MOA and for management employees, in the Benefits and Compensation Summary.

For more detailed information, including Certificate of Insurance and rates, visit the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

To contact The Standard's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Plan Options

#### Basic Life Insurance and Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D)

Eligible employees are automatically enrolled in City-paid Basic life insurance and AD&D. These benefits are 100% paid for by the City for a coverage amount specified in the employee's MOA and for management employees, in the Benefits and Compensation Summary.

#### Voluntary Life Insurance

An employee may also apply for Voluntary Life insurance for self, spouse/domestic partner, and/or child(ren). For this voluntary life insurance, the employee pays for 100% of the premium through semi-monthly post-tax payroll deductions. Premiums are based on age and level of coverage selected, and will vary. Visit the HR Benefits website for more details and rates. <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

#### *Additional Employee Life/AD&D Insurance*

You may apply for coverage in increments of \$10,000 up to a maximum \$750,000 (not to exceed an amount equal to 6 times your annual earnings, rounded-up to the next multiple of \$10,000). There is a guarantee issue amount of up to \$200,000 if you apply within 31 days of employment or benefits eligibility. A Medical History Statement or application for coverage is required for enrollments outside of this period and the application will be subject to The Standard Insurance Company's underwriting review process.

If you are already insured for additional life, an increase in coverage of \$10,000 during the annual open enrollment period is not subject to medical underwriting approval; it is automatically approved.

#### *Spouse/Domestic Partner Life/AD&D Insurance*

You may apply for Spouse/Domestic Partner coverage in increments of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$250,000, but not to exceed 100% of your combined Basic and Additional life coverage amount. There is a guarantee issue amount of up to \$20,000 if you apply within 31 days of employment or benefits eligibility. A Medical History Statement or application for coverage is required for enrollments outside of this period and the application will be subject to The Standard Insurance Company's underwriting review process.

### *Dependent Life Insurance*

You may apply for dependent life coverage for your dependent child(ren) in an amount of either \$5,000 or \$10,000. There is no medical underwriting approval requirement for this coverage; it is automatically approved.

## **When Coverage Terminates**

If an employee leaves City employment current Life and AD&D insurance coverage is portable, meaning there will be an option to convert life insurance coverage to an individual whole life insurance policy. The application to port or convert life insurance must be completed within thirty-one (31) days of the employee's last day of employment with the City. After thirty-one (31) days, eligibility for this benefit ends. Coverage for dependent children terminates when the employee's coverage terminates, or when they no longer qualify as dependents.



## SECTION 13: LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE

City employees are not covered by State Disability Insurance (SDI) or Social Security. Consequently, the City offers two plan options for employee-paid Long Term Disability (LTD) Insurance. Enrollment is voluntary. Long Term Disability is an insurance policy that pays employees up to 66 2/3% of their salary if they become totally disabled on or off the job by an illness, injury, or pregnancy. The City program is offered through The Standard Insurance Company (The Standard).

All full-time and part-time benefited employees are eligible to participate in this program (temporary employees are not eligible for LTD).

For more detailed information including the Certificate of Insurance and rates, visit the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Plan Options

There are two plan options for Long Term Disability insurance, LTD-30 and LTD-60. The following chart shows the differences between the two plan options.

	LTD-30 Plan	LTD-60 Plan
<b>Benefit Percentage</b>	66 2/3% of the first \$15,000 of the employee's pre-disability earnings plus 40% of the next \$12,500 of the employee's pre-disability earnings, reduced by deductible income.	66 2/3% of the first \$15,000 of the employee's pre-disability earnings plus 40% of the next \$12,500 of the employee's pre-disability earnings, reduced by deductible income.
<b>Benefit Waiting Period</b>	30 Days	60 Days
<b>Pre-existing Condition Exclusion</b>	None: All pre-existing conditions are covered	12-month exclusion for pre-existing conditions within the 90 days prior to the coverage effective date.
<b>Mandatory Rehabilitation</b>	Not Required	Required

### When Coverage Begins

Coverage begins on the latter of your date of eligibility or your date of enrollment.

Coverage is guaranteed within 30 days of hire or first date of eligibility for benefits coverage. Thereafter, enrollment in this program requires completion of a medical questionnaire and underwriting approval before coverage will be granted.

### Cost

The current premium cost can be found on the Human Resources Intranet site at <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>. Premiums are calculated based on a percentage of the employee's gross bi-weekly earnings. Premium payments are taken through regular payroll deductions on a bi-weekly basis. These deductions are taken after-tax to ensure that disability payments are not taxable when received.

## Claim Applications

To receive Long Term Disability benefits, an employee must complete the claim telephonically (preferred method) or online. The employee is responsible to complete the Employee's Statement, Authorizations to Obtain Information and the Attending Physician's Statement (completed by the employee's physician) and to submit these forms to The Standard within 90 days of the date he/she becomes totally disabled. The employee should contact his/her department timekeeper to complete the Timekeeper's Statement and ensure this form is submitted to Human Resources. Human Resources will submit the Timekeeper's Statement and the Employer's Statement to The Standard.

To file Telephonically please call Standard Insurance toll free (855) 579-1879.

To file Online please visit [www.standard.com](http://www.standard.com) and click on Individual>Group Long Term Disability>File A Claim.

**Please note:** *Your department timekeeper must complete the Timekeeper's Statement and send it to HR in order for the Employer's Statement portion of the claim to be completed.*

## How LTD Insurance Works

Once an employee's LTD claim is approved, benefits will be payable beginning on the day after the final day of the waiting period during which the employee experienced continuous total disability. Approved claimants will be eligible to receive a monthly benefit of up to 66 2/3% of their monthly wage or salary. For example, if an employee earned \$3,000 per month immediately prior to his/her disability, this benefit ensures that he/she will receive \$2,000 per month once his/her claim is approved.

Please note that while benefits are payable, any deductible income paid, such as sick leave, is subtracted from the maximum monthly disability benefit.

## Waiver of Premium During Disability

Insurance premiums are waived during the time period when LTD benefits are being paid to the employee. Insurance premiums will resume when the disability benefit is no longer payable.

## Deductible Sources of Income

Deductible benefits include sick leave, personal/executive leave and most disability and retirement income from other sources. These include employer programs (e.g., pensions, as well as paid sick leave), government programs (e.g., state disability, Social Security, or Workers' Compensation), and other group insurance. Other leave payments, including vacation and compensatory time, are **not** deducted from LTD insurance payments. Employees will receive a minimum LTD payment of \$100 per month even if deductible benefits are more than 66 2/3% of the employee's salary.

## Definition of Total Disability

During the Benefit Waiting Period (the first 30 or 60 days of continuous, total disability) and for the next twenty-four (24) months, total disability means the complete inability to engage in the employee's regular occupation with the City.

After that, total disability means the complete inability to engage in **any** employment or occupation for which the employee is reasonably qualified, or for which the employee becomes qualified through education, training, or experience.

## LTD and Family Medical Leave

The first 12 weeks of the employee's absence due to disability will run concurrent with the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and/or California Family Rights Act (CFRA).

## When Payable Benefits Terminate

After a determination is made that the employee is able to engage in any employment or occupation, the LTD benefit payments will cease.

Payments will also cease once the employee reaches the end of the maximum benefit period, which is limited by age. If an employee becomes disabled prior to age 62, benefits will continue during disability until the employee reaches age 65. If an employee becomes disabled at age 62 or older, the benefit duration is determined by the employee's age when disability ends, as indicated in the table below.

Age When Disability Begins	Maximum Benefit Period
62	3 years 6 months
63	3 years
64	2 years 6 months
65	2 years
66	1 year 9 months
67	1 year 6 months
68	1 year 3 months
69 and above	1 year

## LTD Claims Status

For questions about a claim that has been filed, contact The Standard at (855) 579-1879.

## When Coverage Terminates

Coverage will terminate when an employee leaves City employment, ceases to be eligible, or fails to remit premium. There is no conversion provision associated with this policy.

## SECTION 14: PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Personal Accident Insurance is available through the City's group policy with the Life Insurance Company of North America (LINA). This plan offers full 24-hour-a-day bodily injury protection against accidents anywhere in the world, on or off the job, on business, on vacation, and at home. Illnesses are not covered.

For more detailed information including Certificate of Insurance and rates, visit the HR Benefits website:

<http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

To contact the Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### Eligibility

All full-time and part-time benefited employees are eligible for this insurance. Employees may insure themselves by using the Employee Only plan, or they may insure both themselves and family members under the Family Plan if:

- The dependent children (including step, foster, legally adopted children, and children of your domestic partner) are unmarried and less than 19 years old.
- The dependent children (including step, foster, or legally adopted children) are unmarried, under age 24, and qualify as full-time students.

No person may be covered more than once under this plan. An employee cannot be covered both as an employee and covered as a spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child of another employee. Dependents are covered at specified percentages of employee's coverage.

### Guaranteed Coverage

No underwriting information is required. You are **guaranteed coverage** if you are a benefited employee. Consequently, employees may apply for Personal Accident Insurance, increase the amount of coverage, or change plan selection at any time without having to obtain approval from the Life Insurance Company of North America.

### When Coverage Begins

Insurance becomes effective on the latest of the following dates:

#### Employee

- the date the Employee becomes eligible;
- the date insurer receives the Employee's completed enrollment form and the required first premium, during his lifetime.

#### Eligible Dependents

- the date the Employee becomes eligible;
- the date the Employee's insurance becomes effective;
- the date the dependent meets the definition of Spouse or Dependent Child, as applicable;

- the date insurer receives a completed enrollment form for Spouse and Dependent Child coverage and the required first premium, during each dependent's lifetime.

## New Born

Insurance becomes effective for a newborn Dependent Child automatically from the moment of the child's live birth. Insurance for that Dependent Child automatically ends 31 days later unless the Employee has a Spouse or other Dependent Children insured under this Policy or makes a request to cover the child and pays the required initial premium, during the child's lifetime.

## Insurance Coverage

Payable benefits are determined by the specific nature of the accidental injury or death in accordance with group policy provisions. In general, the following events are all payable at 100% of the maximum benefit for which the participant is enrolled; however, some lesser combination of these tragic events may be payable at less than 100% of the benefit maximum.

- Loss of life
- Loss of any combination of hands, feet, or eyes
- Loss of hearing and speech
- Quadriplegia

For the employee, the maximum benefit coverage amount is the full amount of coverage elected. For eligible family members, the benefit coverage amount is a percentage of the employee's elected amount. Please refer to this policy's *Certificate of Insurance* for more detail regarding coverage.

## Reductions in Coverage

The employee's coverage is reduced at age 75 and then at age 80.

## Identity Theft Program

The employee and family members are automatically covered by the Identity Theft Program if enrolled in the Personal Accident Insurance plan. The Identity Theft Program defends employees against damages caused by identity theft. A personal case manager will assist with advice and select administrative tasks in order to rectify identity theft issues employees may have experienced.

## When Coverage Terminates

Coverage will terminate when the employee leaves City employment, ceases to be eligible, or fails to remit premium. Coverage for the spouse terminates when he or she ceases to qualify as a legal spouse. Child dependent coverage will terminate when they cease to be eligible as a qualified dependent (see the *Eligibility* section above). Coverage for the spouse terminates when the employee's coverage terminates, or when he or she is no longer eligible, whichever occurs first. Coverage for dependent children terminates when the employee's coverage terminates, or when they no longer qualify as dependents.

## Policy Conversion

If the employee leaves City employment before he/she reaches age 70, he/she may keep this insurance policy by converting to an individual policy. The employee pays the premium in effect for his/her age and occupation as of the last day of employment with the City.

## SECTION 15: Accident Insurance and Critical Illness Insurance

VOYA offers two (2) voluntary limited benefit policies: Accident Insurance and Critical Illness Insurance. They are not health insurance and do not satisfy the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. These policies are portable meaning; you may maintain your coverage even if you leave your City employment.

Premium payment is made through post-tax automatic deduction from your paycheck.

For more detailed information including limitations, rates, and Evidence of Coverage, visit the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

To contact VOYA's Customer Service Center, please refer to the Provider Contact Sheet available on the HR Benefits website: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=238>

### How to Enroll

If the Employee is a new hire or newly benefited, the Employee must click the link below or copy and paste the following web address into a browser to ENROLL in or WAIVE the voluntary Accident or Critical Illness coverage offered by Voya: <http://www.helpmeenroll.com/csj>

The link includes a brief interactive video that explains the insurance options available under each policy.

### When Coverage Begins

Coverage begins on the latest of the following:

- The date the Employee is eligible for coverage, if the Employee applies for coverage on or before that date.
- The date the Employee applies for coverage.
- The date the Employee returns to Active Employment, if the Employee is not in Active Employment when the coverage would otherwise become effective.

### Coverage Options

#### Accident Insurance

Accident Insurance pays specified amount for specific injuries that may or may not be serious over the long term resulting from a covered accident. This money can be used in any way that can help meet personal, financial, or household needs. For example: deductibles, child care, household cleaning, and groceries. Accident Insurance includes riders for Catastrophic Accidents and Wellness.

#### Key Features

- Benefits for emergency room visits, ambulance, hospital care, surgery, and physical therapy
- Benefits for common injuries like fractures and dislocations, burns, lacerations and concussions
- Spend benefits on what you need – medical expenses, groceries, utilities
- Benefits paid regardless of any other insurance you have
- Coverage is portable

## Critical Illness Insurance

Critical Illness Insurance pays a one-time, lump sum benefit amount upon the diagnosis of a covered disease or illness. This money can be used for any purpose like to help pay for expenses not covered by your medical plan, lost wages, child care, or any regular household expenses. Critical Illness Insurance includes riders for Wellness, Recurrence, and Restoration of Benefits Riders.

### *Key Features:*

- Lump-sum benefit when you are diagnosed with a covered illness
- Benefits for heart attack, stroke, kidney failure, coronary artery bypass and several others
- Spend benefits on what you need – medical expenses, groceries, utilities
- Benefits paid regardless of any other insurance you have
- Coverage is portable

## When Coverage Terminates

Coverage will terminate when the employee leaves City employment, ceases to be eligible, or fails to remit premium.

## Portability

To continue coverage, the employee must apply for portability and pay the first premium within 31 days of the date coverage would otherwise terminate due to any of the following:

- Retirement or termination of employment with the Employer, if coverage remains in effect under the Policy for other Insured Persons.
- The Policyholder cancels coverage under the Policy for all Insured Persons, and does not replace it with a similar insurance plan.
- Employee is no longer eligible for coverage under the Policy.

Ported coverage is subject to all the terms of the Policy and this Certificate. Premiums will be billed directly to employee.



## SECTION 16: LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE

The City's LTC insurance plan, provided by Prudential Insurance Company of America (Prudential), covers expenses related to nursing home care, residential care, facility care, and community and home based care, and is designed to help alleviate the financial burdens of participants who require these services.

### Eligibility

No new enrollments are accepted starting July 1, 2013. For grandfathered enrollments, contact a Prudential customer service representative at 1-800-732-0416 for any benefit or coverage questions.

## SECTION 17: DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN

The City of San José 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan (Plan) was established under Section 457 of the IRS Code. It is a voluntary benefit that provides a convenient way for City employees to defer and invest a portion of their wages into a retirement account. Participants are eligible to contribute pre-tax and/or Roth (after tax) money directly from their pay check up to limits set by the IRS. Employees can choose to contribute to both options which will provide distribution choices at retirement. Assets in the participants' account accumulate tax deferred until the participant initiates a roll-over, distribution, or required minimum distribution commences. Assets in the participants' account are made available for distribution upon a qualifying event taking place. Qualifying events are defined as retirement, separation from service, death, or an unforeseeable financial hardship.

The complete text of the Deferred Compensation Plan can be found in Chapter 3.48 of the San José Municipal Code.

### Plan Options

#### Pre-Tax

Contributions and earnings on the investment in this plan are not subject to current federal or state income taxes. Taxes become payable when deferred income plus earnings are distributed, presumably during retirement when you are in a lower income tax bracket.

#### Roth Post-Tax

Contributions to this plan are considered “after-tax,” which means taxes are withheld when you contribute. However, qualified distributions on your contributions plus any earnings are completely tax-free.

Earnings and contributions can be withdrawn tax-free as long as certain conditions are met (separation from service, age 59 ½ and invested at least 5 years) Presumably, employees may be in a higher tax bracket at the time of their retirement or separation from employment and pay less in taxes at that time.

### Enrollment in the Plan

Employees may enroll at any time during their employment with the City. Enrollment options are as follows:

- Enroll in person with a service provider representative. Call the deferred compensation service provider at **(408) 881-0110** for enrollment information.
- Enroll by completing the [EZ Enrollment Form](#) located on the City's Intranet and Internet sites: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov>; <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=244>.
- Enroll online. Employees can access the Plan site and complete the enrollment process at <https://sanjose.beready2retire.com/>.

### Maximum/Minimum Amount of Deferral

Under federal law, there is a **maximum** amount that may be deferred in a calendar year as set forth by the IRS. Contributions can be 100% of gross compensation or a dollar limit not to exceed the contribution in effect for the current year. The **minimum** amount that may be deferred is \$25 per pay period. For maximum limits for the

current calendar year, refer to the annual contribution limits on the City's Deferred Compensation internet at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov> or intranet site at: [www.sjcity.net](http://www.sjcity.net).

## How to Make Deferred Compensation Contribution Changes

Participants can make contribution changes online or by phone:

- **Online:** <https://sanjose.beready2retire.com/>  
Instructions for making online contribution changes can be accessed on the City's intranet and internet sites.
- **Phone:** (800) 584-6001

Paycheck deductions for deferred compensation will begin according to the IRS "first-of-the-month" rule. The "first-of-the-month" rule requires that a participant, requesting a first-time deferral, an increase of deferral or restart of deferral, makes the election before the first of the month in which the deferrals occur. Therefore, elections entered or submitted, between the first and last day of the month, will be deferred from paychecks in the following month.

**NOTE:** If a contribution is changed to zero, the first-of-the-month rule does not apply, and the deduction will be effective within two (2) paychecks.

## Investment of Deferred Wages

The Deferred Compensation Advisory Committee (DCAC) oversees and manages the program. It establishes contracts with financial institution to administer the plan and provide investment vehicles. The DCAC and its independent advisor determines the investment vehicles offered in the plan. Participants have control over how and where their money is invested and can move the investment dollars between funds of various returns and risk.

Participants' deferred income is placed in an account established for them with the plan administrator. All payroll deductions and interest earnings are credited to the account. All assets are held by the City in a trust for the exclusive benefit of the participants and beneficiaries of the Plan.

Participants have 37 investment options to invest their deferred assets. For more information, call (408) 535-3500. Participants may transfer their money between investment options at any time.

## Catch-Up Provisions

The IRS' has Special Catch-Up Provisions that allows participants to exceed the current designated annual maximum. These include:

- **3-Year Catch-Up Provision:** allows participants to exceed the current designated annual maximum during the three (3) years prior to the year designated as the employee's normal retirement age in order to make up for years when they did not invest the maximum amount for which they were eligible if certain requirements are met.

- **Catch-Up Provision for Participants 50 Years or Older:** allows participants who are age 50 or older, or who will turn age 50 in the calendar year, to contribute an additional amount to the established annual maximum contribution limit.
- **Military Service Provision:** The Uniformed Service Employment and Re-employment Act of 1994 (USERRA) allows members of the uniformed service to deposit missed contributions into their Deferred Compensation Account due to military service if certain requirements are met.

Contact the deferred compensation service provider at (408) 881-0110 or email [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov) for additional information regarding the Catch-up Provisions.

## Loan Provision

The Plan provides flexibility through loan options for active employees. Participants can borrow money from their pre-tax Deferred Compensation account. There are 2 types of loan:

- General Purpose loans can be used for any reason and have a maximum repayment period of five (5) years.
- Residential loans must be used for the purchase or renovation of a primary residence and have a maximum repayment period of 20 years.

The Plan's loan program allows for a maximum of one (1) of each type of loan to be outstanding at any one (1) time. The minimum loan amount is \$1,000 and the maximum loan amount is 50% of the participant's account value or \$50,000, whichever is less.

Loan information can be obtained by contacting the deferred compensation service provider's customer service center at **(800) 584-6001**.

## Beneficiary Designations

Beneficiary designations on deferred compensation accounts should be reviewed after any major life change.

If the participant is married and his/her spouse was not named as the beneficiary, the spouse may have community property rights to the account funds unless the spouse signs an acknowledgement that he or she is not a beneficiary.

Participants are encouraged to immediately provide their beneficiary information to the deferred compensation service provider as soon as possible. Participants can add or change their beneficiaries by accessing their deferred compensation account online at <https://sanjose.beready2retire.com/> or by calling the deferred compensation service provider's customer service center at **(800) 584-6001**.

## SECTION 18: TIME OFF - PAID AND UNPAID

### Holidays

All eligible full-time employees receive fourteen (14) paid holidays per year. These holidays are:

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Presidents' Day
- Cesar Chavez Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Columbus Day
- Veterans' Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- The day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve Day

**Note:** Selected City offices and facilities are closed to the public during the holiday furlough (the days between Christmas and New Year's Eve). Essential services including, but not limited to, Police, Fire, Airport, and Environmental Services/Regional Wastewater Facility will continue to operate and certain scheduled recreational and cultural facilities and events will be held as scheduled. Department Directors will determine which services will remain open. City employees are asked to participate in the closure on a voluntary basis. If working during the closure is preferred, employees must notify their supervisor in advance to make arrangements for an assignment. Employees may be assigned to perform work outside of their usual assignment and possibly outside of their department.

During the closure, some work days do not fall on holidays. For these days, employees participating in the closure should record their time off as vacation, personal leave, compensatory time or executive leave, if paid leave is desired (sick leave may not be taken).

Holiday pay is calculated by the number of hours for which the employee is regularly scheduled to work. Specified employees may receive pay in lieu of holiday time off. Holiday dates are published in a City Calendar that is distributed to all employees before the beginning of each year.

### Vacation

Consult the applicable Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or Benefit and Compensation Summary for information about the vacation time that employees earn each year that they work for the City and the vacation accrual maximum.

For employees working part-time, on a reduced workweek, or taking time off without pay, their vacation accrual is affected because vacation time is calculated by the number of hours for which they are paid. Employees do not accumulate extra vacation time for overtime hours worked.

## Personal and Executive Leave

Some full-time and part-time non-management employees may also take personal and/or executive leave, subject to supervisor approval. Consult the applicable MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary to learn if you are eligible for Personal or Executive Leave.

Executive leave is a benefit awarded to management employees as hours/days off, up to a maximum of forty (40) hours/ five (5) days during a payroll calendar year. The Management Performance Program (MPP) provides that employees may receive up to forty (40) hours of additional executive leave. Please refer to City Policy Manual (CPM) [sections 4.2.4](#) and [3.3.2](#) for complete policy guidelines located on the City's Employee Relations Intranet site at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

When an employee is hired into a position eligible for personal or executive leave, the leave may be prorated during the first year dependent upon the hire date.

Personal and executive leave is not an accrued benefit and unused leave does not carry over from year to year.

## Sick Leave

All full-time employees may take their accrued sick leave with pay as medically required. Sick leave is for injuries or illness, and for routine medical and dental appointments. Employees may take sick leave to care for a sick dependent. Check the applicable MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary and [CPM section 4.2.6](#) located on the City's Employee Relations Intranet site at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843> for details.

Employees must contact their supervisor before their scheduled work shift begins to advise them of the need to use sick leave. Substantiation (such as a doctor's certificate) may be required for any sick leave.

For employees working part time, on a reduced workweek, or taking time off without pay, their sick leave accumulation is reduced because sick leave time is calculated based on the number of paid hours. Employees do not accumulate extra sick leave for working overtime hours.

Some retiring employees may be eligible to receive pay for a percentage of their unused sick leave. Check the applicable MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary for more information.

## Sick Leave without Pay

Full-time employees may be eligible for unpaid leave of an absence due to a non-job-related illness, injury, or disability. This is considered *Sick Leave Without Pay*.

See the applicable MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary for specific limits on the length of sick leave for your position. *Sick Leave Without Pay* is one example of *Leave of Absence Without Pay*, and all *Leave of Absence* procedures are applicable.

## Bereavement Leave

Full-time or part-time benefited City employees may be eligible for paid leave in the event of the death of a relative.

The employee's supervisor may request verification for bereavement leave. Bereavement leave is not paid if an employee is not scheduled to work. For details, consult the applicable MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary and [CPM section 4.2.5](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843) located on the City's Employee Relations Intranet site at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>

## Jury Duty Leave

Benefited employees serving as jurors will receive their regular pay; however, if employees receive jury fees, they must remit them to the City. Employees may keep their mileage payment.

## Witness Leave

Each full-time employee of the City who is required, under subpoena, to take time off duty with the City, to appear as a witness, by reason of their employment with the City, in any case or proceeding in any Court of this State or of the United States of America, shall receive their regular salary during the term of their service as a witness under subpoena, less any and all witness fees which the employee may receive therefore. Compensation will not be paid if the employee is a party to a state or federal action.

Please see the applicable MOA or Benefit and Compensation Summary for specific details.

## Military Leave

The City of San José has a separate policy for Officers and employees of the City of San José who are entitled to benefits for military service in accordance with applicable laws of the State of California and the Federal Government. Please refer to City Administrative Policy manual 4.2.2 Military Leaves policies and procedures related to the use of military leave by City employees.

Please refer to [City Policy Manual Section 4.2.2](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843) located on the City's Employee Relations Intranet site at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

## Family and Medical Leave Act, California Family Rights Act, and Pregnancy Disability Leave Act

### INTRODUCTION

The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993, provides unpaid leave to eligible employees with qualifying circumstances and ensures that employees will be reinstated to the same or equivalent position with no loss of benefits once the leave is concluded.

In California, employees are also covered by the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) of 1993 and the Pregnancy Disability Leave Act (PDL), each of which provide family or medical leave that can run concurrently or consecutively with the FMLA, depending on the circumstances.

These pieces of legislation were implemented in order to allow employees to secure leaves from work under certain specified conditions while also providing job security and health care benefits. These laws also have an impact on other statutes such as Workers' Compensation and internal leave policies.

## LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

In accordance with the requirements of the FMLA and the CFRA, as amended, the City of San José will provide an eligible employee with up to twelve (12) weeks of protected leave during each year if the employee is eligible for FMLA/CFRA leave. Any employee (including temporary, part time, or seasonal) who has been maintained on the City payroll for at least twelve (12) months and who has worked at least 1,250 hours (actual working hours including overtime) during the previous twelve (12) months for the City of San José is eligible for time off work under this policy for any of the qualifying reasons outlined below. (NOTE: The 12 months of employment with the City need not be consecutive; however, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven years or more shall not be counted in determining whether the employee has been employed by the employer for at least 12 months, except for a break in service caused by a military service obligation).

Under the provisions of the FMLA/CFRA, "leave" from work may be taken for any of the following reasons:

1. To care for a new child through birth, adoption, or foster care placement (FMLA/CFRA time off work must be taken within twelve (12) months of the date of the birth or placement) ; or
2. To care for a child, spouse, registered domestic partner (CFRA only), or parent who has a serious health condition NOTES: Child means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a step child, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis (i.e. in place of the parent) who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability; or
3. To treat the employee's own serious health condition which makes the employee unable to work.

It is also important to keep in mind FMLA/CFRA leave is unpaid leave. FMLA/CFRA leave is an employee's right to be away from the job while still enjoying certain statutory protections provided by law. Depending upon the reason for the leave, the employee may be required to use and exhaust all accrued sick leave and/or accrued vacation while on unpaid FMLA and/or CFRA leave. Additional information on the use of paid leave during FMLA and/or CFRA can be found in the City Policy Manual, Section 4.2.1 Leaves of Absence located on the City's Employee Relations Internet site at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

## Employee Rights and Benefits Under FMLA/CFRA

Any City employee who is granted time off work for an FMLA/CFRA qualifying reason is eligible to receive the following benefits:

1. Retention of employment status (i.e., position, seniority, benefits) with the City of San José during the period of time off;
2. Reinstatement to the same or equivalent position after the twelve (12) week period of time off is concluded; in some instances this may be more than twelve weeks.



3. Group health plan benefits continue the same as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been continuously employed during the 12 week leave period. If the employee is disabled by pregnancy, the employee will continue to be covered for up to 4 months each leave year. In the event an employee is disabled by pregnancy and also uses CFRA for bonding, the City of San José will maintain the employee's health benefits while the employee is disabled by pregnancy (up to four months or 17 weeks) and during the employee's CFRA leave (up to 12 weeks).
4. Entitlement to continuation of group health benefit plan under the Consolidated Omnibus Reconciliation Act (COBRA) of 1986;
5. Protection against unlawful discharge or discrimination associated with the leave.

## How to Apply for FMLA and CFRA Leave

FMLA/CFRA is unique in that it may be initiated by either the City or at the request of the employee. Whenever an employee is absent, or expected to be absent from work for a period in excess of two weeks, the Department/Division shall request that the employee provide information regarding the absence in order to determine if an FMLA/CFRA leave designation is appropriate. **Exception:** Any leave charged to an absence which relates to a job-related injury (except those covered under LC 4850) shall be immediately designated as FMLA/CFRA for all time lost due to the injury.

To request FMLA and/or CFRA leave, complete the *FMLA/CFRA/PDL and Leave of Absence Application and a Medical Certification* form. The forms are available on the City's Human Resources intranet page at <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?NID=205> or the employee's department timekeeper can provide the forms and can assist with completing them. Employees must provide no less than a thirty (30) day notice before any FMLA/CFRA leave is to begin. An exception can be made when the thirty (30) day advanced notice cannot be reasonably anticipated nor predicted by the employee. FMLA and CFRA leave will not be approved after the FMLA and CFRA entitlement period ends (FMLA and CFRA entitlement period is limited to 12 workweeks per year).

## How Much FMLA and CFRA Leave Can Be Taken?

An FMLA/CFRA leave may be taken in one twelve (12) workweek period with one exception. For leave to care for a Covered Service member, the maximum combined leave entitlement is 26 weeks, with leaves for all other reasons constituting no more than 12 of those 26 weeks. Also, in addition to leave available under the FMLA and CFRA, female employees may be eligible for leaves of absence during periods of disability associated with pregnancy or childbirth. Please see the Pregnancy Disability Leave of Absence (PDL) section for further information on this type of leave.

The FMLA/CFRA time off work does not have to be in one twelve (12) week increment. An employee may take time off work intermittently (a few weeks/days/hours at a time) under certain conditions.

## Pregnancy Leave: FMLA, CFRA and PDL

If an employee is disabled due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, the employee may be eligible for up to four (4) months of leave, in conjunction with the FMLA leave, under the California Pregnancy Disability Leave Act (PDL).

The State CFRA statute does not consider pregnancy to be a disability since there is another California law, Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL), which addresses this matter. If eligible, FMLA and PDL run concurrently, CFRA does not run concurrently with PDL. The employee is entitled to take CFRA leave if they meet the CFRA eligibility requirements after PDL entitlement ends. This benefit is only permitted during the period the employee is actually disabled as documented by the treating physician. Generally, following the period of disability, the employee would be eligible to take an additional 12 weeks off work under the CFRA statute. CFRA basically provides an opportunity to "bond" with the newborn.

Under these conditions, an employee could potentially remain off work for a maximum of up to 4 months (Pregnancy Disability Leave) and an additional 12 weeks (CFRA bonding leave). As a reminder, there cannot be any overlap between a PDL and CFRA leave for pregnancy related disabilities. PDL is based on the existence of a medical disability associated with the pregnancy while CFRA is a bonding leave with the newborn.

Eligibility for PDL leave commences with the date of employment. Unlike the FMLA/CFRA, there is no service eligibility requirement pertaining to the one-year period of service or minimum number of hours worked.

See Section 19: Benefits Continuation During Leave of Absence for benefit premiums.

## Medical Certification Is Required for FMLA, CFRA, and PDL Leave

Medical certification is required to be completed by the employee's health care provider in order to verify that the employee is taking leave for a qualified FMLA, CFRA, and/or PDL reason. The FMLA, CFRA, and/or PDL medical certification must contain the following:

- **For FMLA and/or CFRA leave for the employee's own illness or injury:**

Medical certification of the employee's "serious health condition" as described in the federal Family and Medical Leave Act and California Family Rights Act; the approximate date the medical condition began; the probable duration of the condition; the probable duration of the inability to work due to the condition; certification that the employee is unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of their job.

- **For FMLA and/or CFRA leave to care for an eligible family member:**

Medical certification of the same information described above regarding the employee's family member's illness or injury; the doctor's statement that the employee must be absent from work to care for this family member; and estimate of the period during which this care is required for the family member (including the anticipated work schedule if the leave will be taken on an intermittent basis to care for a family member).

- **For PDL leave for employees who are specifically disabled due to pregnancy-related conditions**

Medical certification is required from your health care provider for Pregnancy Disability Leave. For this purpose, the medical certification of the same information described above regarding the employee's pregnancy disability.

Medical certification for FMLA and/or CFRA leave must be provided directly to Employee Benefits, City of San José – Human Resources, 200 E. Santa Clara St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower, San José, CA 95113. Since this information is confidential, it **should not** be attached to the *Leave Application*. A medical certification form is available from the department Timekeeper, Department of Human Resources, or online at <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?NID=205> for the employee and the employee's doctor to use in providing the medical certification required for FMLA and CFRA leave.

A “Doctor’s Note” is generally not sufficient to provide FMLA and CFRA or PDL medical certification. FMLA , CFRA, and/or PDL medical certification is separate from and in addition to any statement or form which may be required for any insurance purpose including a claim for Long Term Disability Insurance provided by The Standard Insurance Company. Leave under the FMLA , CFRA, and/or PDL may not be approved until the FMLA , CFRA, and/or PDL medical certification has been received by Human Resources.

An employee is required to submit a completed medical certification from a health care provider within no less than fifteen (15) days whenever FMLA/CFRA/PDL time off work is needed due to the serious health condition of the employee, the employee's immediate family member, or disabled by pregnancy. Failure to provide the required medical certification within fifteen (15) days of the City’s request, or if the employee fails to provide a complete and sufficient certification despite the opportunity to cure any deficiencies, may result in the leave not being designated as FMLA/CFRA/PDL which may also result in the denial of the leave.

### Recertification of Health Condition

The law provides that once an employee has provided certification of a medical condition, a recertification cannot be requested for a period of 30 days. Exceptions to this 30-day rule exist when there is a showing that one of following events has occurred:

1. The employee requests an extension of the leave; or
2. The circumstances described by the original certification have changed significantly; or
3. The employer has information that casts doubt on the continuing validity of the certification.  
Documentation is important to show a pattern of leave abuse.

If the City has received a complete and sufficient certification but has a reason to doubt that it is valid, the City may require the employee to obtain a second medical certification. Please see [City Administrative Manual Leave of Absence Policy 4.2.1](#) for further details.

### Service Member Family and Medical Leave

An eligible employee may take up to twelve (12) workweeks off during a twelve (12) month period because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the eligible employee being on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces; or

An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member shall be entitled to a total of twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave during a twelve (12) month period to care for the covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

For additional information please refer to [City Policy Manual Section 4.2.1](#) located on the City’s Internet site at <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

### Vacation, Sick Leave, And Service Credit

When an employee takes a leave of absence without pay, the following items, determined by the number of hours the employee works, are affected as follows:

- Vacation, sick leave, retirement service hours, and seniority hour balances cease to accumulate.
- The timing of step increases is delayed.
- Completion of probation is delayed.

## Leave Of Absence Extensions

Any extension to a leave of absence must be requested in writing prior to the end of the employee's leave.

## End of Leave of Absence

Failure to return to work immediately following the end of an approved leave of absence will be considered a voluntary resignation. An employee who takes time off under FMLA/CFRA due to his/her own serious health condition may be required, prior to his/her return from the FMLA/CFRA leave, to provide a medical certification verifying he/she is able to return from medical leave and perform his/her job duties.

## Returning from a Leave of Absence

When employees return from a leave of absence, their supervisor must complete a *Return from Leave* form and turn it in to their leave Analyst in Human Resources.

If coverage has been dropped from any City benefit plans because the employee did not pay his/her own premiums during their leave or the employee elected to have all benefits lapsed, the employee will be required to re-enroll upon his/her return from leave. For some benefits, the employee may be subject to Evidence of Insurability (EOI). Coverage will begin again once the appropriate premiums are paid, but no sooner than the first of the month following the return from leave. Please contact Human Resources by phone at 408-535-1285 or by e-mail at [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov) for more information.

## What Happens When An Employee's FMLA/CFRA Expires?

Upon the expiration of the protected leave, all of the outlined benefits that FMLA/CFRA provide are concluded. The employee may continue on leave beyond the statutory protected period with the approval of Other Leaves Without Pay, consistent with the Leaves of Absence Policy.

## Cancer Screening Release Time Program

The purpose of this program is to allow City of San José Civil Service employees (classified and unclassified) time away from work to receive breast and prostate cancer screening. Because early detection and diagnosis of such cancers can save lives, the goal of the City of San José is to encourage its employees to schedule and receive regular breast and prostate screenings through their health care provider in order to increase the benefits of prompt treatment.

Please refer to [City Policy Manual \(CPM\) Section 4.2.13](#) for more information. The CPM and the Cancer Screening Release Time form can be found on the City's Intranet site at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

## SECTION 19: BENEFITS CONTINUATION DURING LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### Paid Leaves of Absence

Benefit premiums are paid through regular paycheck deductions taken each pay period. If an employee is in a protected and unprotected paid status and continues to receive a City paycheck, both the employee's and the City's premium contributions will continue to be made to the City's respective benefit providers. Consequently, employees on paid leave of absence do not need to do anything to maintain their benefits eligibility.

### Unpaid Leaves of Absence

When an employee enters into an unpaid protected or unprotected status while on leave, City paychecks will cease and the employee and City portions (if applicable) of the premium contributions will stop. This lack of premium contribution will interrupt benefits eligibility within both the City's and the benefit providers' systems.

### Benefits Continuation During Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) , California Family Rights Leave(CFRA) and Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL)

Family and Medical Leave (FMLA), California Family Rights Leave (CFRA), and Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL) are considered protected leaves. While on an approved protected leave, employees will be entitled to the City's regular contribution to Medical, Dental, Vision (if applicable) and EAP benefit premiums for the protected period of leave time allowed by legislation (See the *Employee Benefits Handbook, Section 18 Time Off Paid and Unpaid*, and the [City Policy Manual, Section 4.2.1 Leaves of Absence](#) for additional information on FMLA/CFRA/PDL).

For employees in a paid status and on protected leave, the employee's and the City's premiums will be collected and remitted as usual through regular paycheck deductions. If and when an employee enters into unpaid status on protected leave, employees will be responsible for remitting their portion of the regular premium; the City will continue its portion through the remainder of the protected leave time. If the leave is not qualified for FMLA, CFRA or PDL, the employee must make payments of both the employee and City portion of the premium to continue coverage.

The City may recover from the employee any premiums paid on behalf of the employee for group health care coverage if the employee fails to make payments for health premiums during FMLA, CFRA and/or PDL leave, or if the employee fails to return to work. If the employee is no longer eligible for FMLA/CFRA/PDL, the coverage under the health plans will be terminated and the employee will be offered COBRA coverage.

### Benefits Continuation During a Protected Unpaid Leave of Absence

During a protected unpaid FMLA/CFRA/PDL leave, the employee's portion of the insurance premiums must be received by the first of each month either by mail or in person. If the payment is more than 30 days late, the employee's insurance benefits may be dropped by the vendor for failure to make a premium contribution. The City will provide a fifteen (15) day notification prior to the employee's loss of coverage. The employee may be invoiced for any insurance premiums that cannot be retro-cancelled.

## Beginning an Unpaid Leave of Absence

If an employee anticipates going into an unpaid status while on protected leave, it is the employee's responsibility to contact Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 408-535-1285, [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov)) for information regarding premium and benefits continuation. Human Resources will provide information to assist employees with continuing benefits to avoid a break in coverage.

## Employee Entitlement to Continuation of Health Benefits under COBRA

The last day of FMLA, CFRA and/or PDL time off work is the end of the protected period OR the date the employee informs his/her Department that he/she (i.e., the employee) will not be returning to work, whichever occurs first. Once FMLA, CFRA and/or PDL have been exhausted, if the employee still cannot come back to work whether the employee is on ADA additional leave or not, coverage under the health plans will be terminated and employees on leave will be offered COBRA coverage. An employee who does not return to employment with the City at the end of any protected time off work may have the right to select COBRA coverage.

## Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and FMLA/CFRA

Any City employee with a serious health condition, who is eligible for time off work under the FMLA/CFRA and who also meets the criteria of being a qualified individual with a disability under the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) is entitled to his/her rights under all statutes including the ADA, FEHA, FMLA, and CFRA. For example, an FMLA/CFRA eligible employee who is working part time due to reasonable accommodation under the ADA, may take FMLA/CFRA time off work for any of the qualifying reasons under FMLA/CFRA.

## Workers' Compensation and FMLA/CFRA

When an employee is injured on the job and the injury also results in a serious health condition that makes an employee unable to perform any one of the essential functions of the employee's position within the meaning of FMLA/CFRA, the employee qualifies for both Workers' Compensation benefits and FMLA/CFRA. This excludes safety employees covered under LC 4850. Both Workers' Compensation and FMLA/CFRA run concurrently.

All charged time off due to an employee's absence for a Workers' Compensation injury is charged against the 12-week entitlement to FMLA/CFRA leave for all FMLA/CFRA eligible employees except sworn safety employees covered under LC 4850.

## FMLA/CFRA and Retirement Plans

Any period of FMLA/CFRA/PDL leave will be treated as continuous service for purposes of vesting and eligibility to participate in the City's retirement plan.

A City employee is entitled to the right of reinstatement to the same or equivalent position and equivalent benefits after the conclusion of an unpaid FMLA/CFRA/PDL leave, including the retirement benefit plan.

## Employee Protection Against Unlawful Employment Practices

Any City employee who has used FMLA/CFRA/PDL leave shall be protected against unlawful employment practices. It is unlawful to discharge, discriminate, interfere with, restrain or deny any employee the ability to exercise or attempt to exercise any leave or right granted under the provision of the FMLA or CFRA.

## Additional Information

Each leave of absence is different, and contacting Human Resources prior to the beginning of a LOA is recommended. More information is available from Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 408-535-1285, [HRbenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRbenefits@sanjoseca.gov)).

## SECTION 20: TIME DONATION PROGRAMS

### Catastrophic Illness/Injury Time Donation Program (CITD)

This program is designed to assist an employee who has exhausted paid leave time due to the employee's critical medical condition (illness/injury is extremely serious, totally incapacitating, and life-threatening) or, depending on the bargaining unit, critical medical condition of an eligible family member. Voluntary donations are intended to assist the seriously ill or injured employee who would otherwise have no regular income. Employees who are covered by the City's group insurance plan for salary continuation such as voluntary Long Term Disability (LTD), are encouraged to file a claim with the LTD carrier in lieu of applying for the CITD program. This program allows other employees to donate earned vacation and/or compensatory time in accordance with the following terms so an employee may continue in a paid status with the City for a longer period of time.

The CITD program requires that the applicant must be absent for at least 30 consecutive days due to the non-work related illness/injury, and have exhausted all paid leave by the time the donation can be processed. The donation hours that can be received is limited to a maximum of 1,040 hours with the option to increase to a maximum of 2,080 hours, if eligible.

Please refer to the applicable Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for union-specific requirements, if applicable. Also, please consult [City Policy Manual \(CPM\), Section 4.2.10, Time Donation Programs](#), for more details regarding policy and administrative procedures. The CPM can be found on the City's Internet site at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

### Personal Illness/Injury Time Donation Program (PITD)

This program is designed to assist an eligible City employee who has exhausted paid leave time due to an employee's non-critical medical condition. This provision allows other employees to donate earned vacation and/or compensatory time in accordance with the following terms so an employee may continue in a paid status with the City for a longer period of time.

The PITD program requires that the applicant must be absent for at least 30 consecutive days due to a non-work related illness/injury, and have exhausted all paid leave by the time the donation can be processed. The maximum donation that can be received is limited to 176 hours.

Please refer to the applicable Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for additional information. Also, please consult [City Policy Manual \(CPM\), Section 4.2.10, Time Donation Programs](#), for more details regarding policy and administrative procedures. The CPM can be found on the City's Internet site at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.



## SECTION 21: WORKERS' COMPENSATION

California Workers' Compensation law, passed by the state Legislature more than ninety years ago, guarantees prompt, automatic benefits to workers injured on the job.

### ***It's the Employee's Responsibility to report On-the-job injury or illness***

An employee who is injured on the job must report it to his/her supervisor (or the next level in chain of command) immediately. If time could be lost from work, a physician should be seen within 24 hours. California law provides benefits to employees who are injured on the job or contract a job-related illness. Benefits vary with each situation. Employees should keep their supervisor aware of their current status.

For more detailed information, visit Workers' Compensation at City Hall, 200 E. Santa Clara St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Tower, or call (408) 535-1285.

### Eligibility

All City employees are covered under Workers' Compensation law. Unpaid volunteers may not be covered.

### Coverage

Any injury or illness caused by your job is covered, including everything from first-aid type injuries to serious accidents. Job-related illnesses may qualify for workers' compensation coverage as well.

### Benefits and Payments

For a complete description of Workers' Compensation benefits and payment information, please consult the "Facts about Workers' Compensation" brochure included with new employee enrollment materials.

### Workers' Compensation and Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

Time spent on a leave of absence for workers' compensation counts towards an employee's annual 12 week entitlement to FMLA. More information on FMLA can be found in the Employee Benefits Handbook, Section 18 Time Off: Paid and Unpaid of and in the City Policy Manual, [Section 4.2.1](#) titled [Leaves of Absence](#).

## SECTION 22: EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

### Training and Development

The City is currently evaluating options to provide trainings to employees.

### Education Benefits For Non-Management Employees

The purpose of the City's Education Reimbursement Program is to encourage full-time and part-time benefited employees to improve their job skills and performance by providing financial assistance for successful completion of job-related academic, professional, and technical course work. To qualify for reimbursement under the program, the proposed course work must improve the employee's skills and knowledge as required by the employee's present position; benefit the employee's professional development as a City employee; or enhance the employee's career development with the City of San José.

Please refer to the applicable Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for union-specific requirements. Consult the [City Policy Manual Section 4.3.1, Education Reimbursement](#), for more details regarding policy and administrative procedures. The City Policy Manual can be found on the City of San José Internet site at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

### Education Benefits for Management Employees

The purpose of the Professional Development Program for Executive Management and Professional Employees is to encourage eligible employees to maintain professional skills and knowledge and to further professional growth and development by providing funds for eligible educational and professional related expenses.

Please refer to the applicable Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for union-specific requirements. Consult the [City Policy Manual Section 4.3.2, Professional Development Program](#), for more details regarding policy and administrative procedures. The City Policy Manual can be found on the City's Internet site at: <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

## SECTION 23: ALTERNATIVE WORK SCHEDULES

### Alternative Work Schedule Program

The Alternative Work Schedule program allows certain employees to request a biweekly work schedule other than the normal schedule of five 8-hour days each week. Applications are available from the Department Timekeeper or the Office of Employee Relations.

An Alternative Work Schedule is subject to approval by the Department Head and Office of Employee Relations, and is intended to be the employee's permanent schedule, although it may be terminated or revised to meet the employee's changing needs or the needs of his/her work unit. Consult the applicable MOA to see if the Alternative Work Schedule program is available to you and the [City Policy Manual Section 4.2.11](#). The CPM can be found on the City's Internet site at: <http://www.san Joseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

### Reduced Work Week Program

All employees except police and fire (sworn) personnel may request a reduced work week for personal or medical reasons. The employee's department has complete discretion regarding approval unless a documented medical condition is the reason for the reduced work week request.

The City's contribution towards premiums for medical, dental and life insurance are prorated from the amount contributed for full-time employees, based on the number of work hours scheduled per week under each individual reduced work week agreement. Applications and additional information are available from Human Resources (City Hall Tower, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, 408-535-1285, [HRbenefits@san Joseca.gov](mailto:HRbenefits@san Joseca.gov)). For more information, please refer to the [City Policy Manual Section 4.2.12](#). The CPM can be found on the City's Internet site at: <http://www.san Joseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=3843>.

## SECTION 24: EMPLOYEE WELLNESS PROGRAM

### Employee Wellness Rewards\*

The City of San José strives to help employees maintain or attain a healthy lifestyle and to help them be more informed medical consumers. The Wellness Rewards Program gives employees the opportunity to earn up to \$50.00 for fulfilling certain wellness requirements.

#### BASIC PROGRAM (reward: \$35.00)

- Choose a Primary Care Physician (PCP) and Dentist.
- Complete the annual preventative medical, dental, and vision check-ups and biometrics screening.
- Monitor your cholesterol levels, weight, blood pressure, and glucose.

#### ENHANCED PROGRAM (additional \$15.00)

- Complete all steps of the Basic Program.
- Use an alternative mode of transportation to get to work.

You may elect to participate in the Wellness Rewards Program as a new employee, newly eligible for benefits or during open enrollment.

For more information, visit the Wellness Website on the Intranet: <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?NID=245>

[\\*The Employee Wellness Rewards is subject to availability of annual funding.](#)

### Kaiser Permanente Wellness Support

Kaiser Permanente members can take advantage of the extra perks below—from personal health coaching to discounts on alternative medical therapies.

#### Healthy Lifestyle Programs

With the online wellness programs, members get advice, encouragement, and tools to help create positive changes in their life.

Kaiser's complimentary programs can help members lose weight, eat healthier, quit smoking, reduce stress, and manage ongoing conditions like diabetes or depression.

The Total Health Assessment is simple online survey that gives a complete look at one's health. Results of the assessment can be linked to the member's electronic health record, to share and discuss with the primary care provider.

For more information, visit [Kp.org/healthylifestyles](http://Kp.org/healthylifestyles).

#### Wellness Coaching

Kaiser offers Wellness Coaching by phone at no cost to members. For more information, visit [kp.org/wellnesscoach](http://kp.org/wellnesscoach).

## Health Classes

With all kinds of health classes and support groups offered right at Kaiser facilities, there's something for everyone. Classes vary at each location, and some may require a small fee.

Visit [Kp.org/classes](http://Kp.org/classes) to see all available classes.

## Member Discounts

Members get reduced rates on a variety of health-related products and services through ChooseHealthy™. These include:

- Acupuncture – 25% off a contracted acupuncturist's regular rates
- Massage therapy - 25% off a contracted massage therapist's regular rates
- Chiropractic Care - 25% off a contracted chiropractor's regular rates
- Gym Memberships – 10% off participating fitness facilities

Members can also get reduced rates on vitamins and supplements.

Visit [kp.org/choosehealthy](http://kp.org/choosehealthy) for more information.

## Blue Shield Healthy Lifestyle Program

### Wellvolution<sup>SM</sup>

[www.myWellvolution.com](http://www.myWellvolution.com) is the simplest way to work wellness into your day and features easy-to-use online programs that can help you learn about your health and improve your well-being. Members participate through their computer, smartphone, or tablet, and can invite friends and family to join the fun and support their health goals. After joining, members have access to:

- **Well-Being Tracker:** members take a short questionnaire and receive a confidential, personalized report of their overall well-being including ways you can improve your health.
  - **Daily Challenge:** members receive a daily e-mail or text message that includes suggestions for simple and fun wellness related tasks related to health topics that can help improve your well-being
  - **Walkadoo:** members receive their own personalized step goals, get daily support from the community and earn special stamps along their journey
  - **QuitNet:** Get the help you need to quit smoking in the largest online quit-smoking community in the world with nicotine replacement therapy at no additional cost
- Diabetes Prevention Program:** This program can help you lose weight, adopt healthier habits, and reduce your risk of developing type-2 diabetes. It is available at no cost to members who qualify. To find out if you qualify take a short quiz at [solera4me.com/shield](http://solera4me.com/shield)

## NurseHelp 24/7

Members can speak with a registered nurse anytime day or night and get answers to health-related questions, or go online to have a one-on-one live chat with a registered nurse anytime. The phone number is conveniently located on the back of the Blue Shield member ID card.

## Prenatal Program

Members have access to experienced maternity nurses 24/7 as well as prenatal information, including a popular pregnancy or parenting book at no additional cost.

## Disease Management Programs

The disease management programs are designed to help members manage their chronic condition, improve their quality of life and minimize the cost of healthcare. Enrolled members receive interactive online support, as well as education mailings and are invited to call as needed. Those at higher risk may also receive telephone outreach from a nurse and certain members may be provided with home biometric monitoring. Members with the following conditions will benefit from the program:

- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Heart failure
- Coronary artery disease (CAD)

## Fitness Center and Wellness Discounts

Blue Shield offers a wide range of discount programs to help members save money and get healthier. Discounts available for Club Sport, Renaissance Club Sport, 24 Hour Fitness, Weight Watchers, vision, and alternative care.

## Online Resources

Blue Shield offers an extensive online Health Library. Members can visit [blueshieldca.com](https://www.blueshieldca.com) to research health topics and conditions, learn about complementary treatments, and understand holistic approaches. Resources for women's, men's, LGBT's, children's, and seniors' health are also available.

## Sutter Health Plus Wellness Programs and Resources

Sutter Health Plus offers a variety of programs and resources to help members maintain a healthy lifestyle and improve health conditions.

### Wellness Coaching Program

Sutter Health Plus offers a Wellness Coaching Program at no additional out-of-pocket cost to members. This telephone-based program combines personal life coaching with personal accountability as a way of engaging our members and achieving

wellness goals. The program currently offers help with healthy weight, tobacco cessation and stress management. Members can call 1-866-961-8513 for more information.

### Disease Management Program

Sutter Health Plus offers its members access to Sutter Health's telephone-based Disease Management Program if they have asthma, heart failure, diabetes, high blood pressure, or high cholesterol. Members can be referred by their doctor or enroll themselves in

one or more of these programs, which are available at no additional out-of-pocket costs. Members can call 1-855-421-6831 to enroll in the Sutter Health Disease Management Program.

## Personal Health Assessment

The Personal Health Assessment is an interactive tool that analyzes health information provided by the member. This includes health history, lifestyle behaviors and biometric test results, such as blood pressure and cholesterol levels. Each member that

completes the assessment receives a personalized health risk report and suggestions on how to improve overall health. The assessment may be found on the member portal at [shplus.org/memberportal](http://shplus.org/memberportal).

## Health Maintenance Guidelines

The health maintenance guidelines brochure, “Partnering for Your Best Health - Checks Ups, Screenings, Immunizations,” helps members understand the recommendations for all stages of life to keep them healthy. The guidelines include recommended topics for member discussion with a health care provider such as tobacco use, alcohol misuse and prevention of sexually transmitted infections. The guidelines are available at [sutterhealthplus.org/wellness](http://sutterhealthplus.org/wellness).

## Wellness Screenings

Wellness Screenings are a convenient and cost-effective way for employers to help employees monitor their current health status and offer support and encouragement for individuals to stay healthy or improve their health.

Research shows that individuals who routinely monitor their wellness indicators generally seek treatment sooner to improve their long-term health, and this often leads to lower health care costs both for the employee and the employer.

- City of San José Employee Health Services (EHS) provides a screening for the following wellness indicators:
  - Total cholesterol including triglycerides, HDL (good cholesterol), LDL (bad cholesterol), blood pressure, body mass index (BMI) and blood sugar.

Please call EHS to schedule an appointment. They are located at 393 Blossom Hill Road, Suite 295, San José, CA 95123. ***Employees may use leave or flextime subject to supervisor approval for attendance outside of his/her lunch break.***

For questions, please call EHS at (408) 794-1250 or email [EHSAppt@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:EHSAppt@sanjoseca.gov)

## City Fitness Rooms

Fitness rooms are located at City Hall, the West Yard, the South Yard, the Mabury Yard, the Central Service Yard, the Police Department, and at many Fire Stations. These fitness rooms are designed to offer stretching, weight bearing, and cardio equipment at convenient employee locations. The fitness rooms build on the City's mission to support healthful employee activity and a wellness-focused workplace culture.

Access to fitness rooms is determined by workplace location. For example: The City Hall fitness room is only accessible to City employees assigned to work in the City Hall complex. This does not include off-site employees, contractors, consultants, volunteers, vendors, or unpaid interns.

Use of fitness rooms is allowed during non-paid hours before or after work and during lunch breaks. The following rules apply to the fitness rooms:

- Prior to use, employees are responsible to learn proper exercise techniques, as well as to consult with their medical provider regarding possible health risks.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Act with courtesy and respect toward others using the room or equipment.
- Wipe down equipment after use.
- Non-employee guests are not permitted.
- Report equipment damage immediately to: [gs.wo.desk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:gs.wo.desk@sanjoseca.gov)
- Dial 9-1-1 for emergencies
- FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE POSTED RULES MAY LEAD TO A LOSS OF USE PRIVILEGE



## SECTION 25: EWAY SELF-SERVICE SYSTEM

**eWay** is the City's intranet-based employee self-service system that provides employees the opportunity to access, view and update their personal information, certain payroll information, and view and enroll in benefits online. **eWay** is a user-friendly and secure system using state-of-the-art technology.

### Accessing eWay

#### 1. Login from work or home.

- **From Work:** <https://sjhp92.hosted.cherryroad.com/psp/sjhp92/?cmd=login&languageCd=ENG&>
  - The Intranet can only be accessed from a computer with access to the City's server.
  - **Click "eWay"** on the top navigation bar on the CSJ Intranet homepage.
  - **You are now at the eWay landing page.** Click either one of the "eWay" links located in the center frame on your screen and you'll be taken to the eWay login page.
- **From Home:** <https://sjhpss.hosted.cherryroad.com/psp/sjhpss/ESS/HRMS>
  - **Use Google Chrome for your browser.**
  - **Select the "Click here to go to eWay" link.**
  - **Please note that eWay is not accessible from tablets or mobile devices.**

#### 2. Enter your User ID and Password on the Login screen.

- User ID = Employee ID #
- Temporary Password = First four letters of your last name (use all caps) and the last four digits of your social security number.

**Example:** John Anderson = **ANDE4321**

- If your last name is less than four letters, use all letters of your last name (use all caps).

**Example:** Amy Ng = **NG6789**

#### *Important Password Information*

- **First-time Users:** Change your temporary password the first time you login.
  - **Changing Your Password**
    - Select "Change My Password" from the menu.
    - Enter your password information. Click "Change Password".
- Make sure to keep your password confidential.
- You will be prompted to change your password every 90 days.
- If you forget your password or it is not working, follow the instructions on the back page to reset your password.

#### 3. Select "Self Service" and choose from the options below:

- **Select "Personal Information"** to review/edit your home and mailing address, emergency contacts, email address, and phone number(s).
- **Select "Payroll and Compensation"** to review your current and prior paychecks; change your tax withholdings; and request a reissue of your W-2 statement. (**See Direct Deposit and Tax Withholding page for more information**).

## eWay Password and Network Employee Login Help

If you have access problems, open an IT ticket through the City's intranet page at <http://www.sjcity.net/index.aspx?nid=198> or contact the **HelpDesk** at (408) 793-6900 or at [helpdesk@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:helpdesk@sanjoseca.gov). Office hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## Benefits Enrollment Help

If you need help enrolling in your benefit plans, contact the Human Resources Department at (408) 535-1285 or by email at [HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:HRBenefits@sanjoseca.gov). Office hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.